



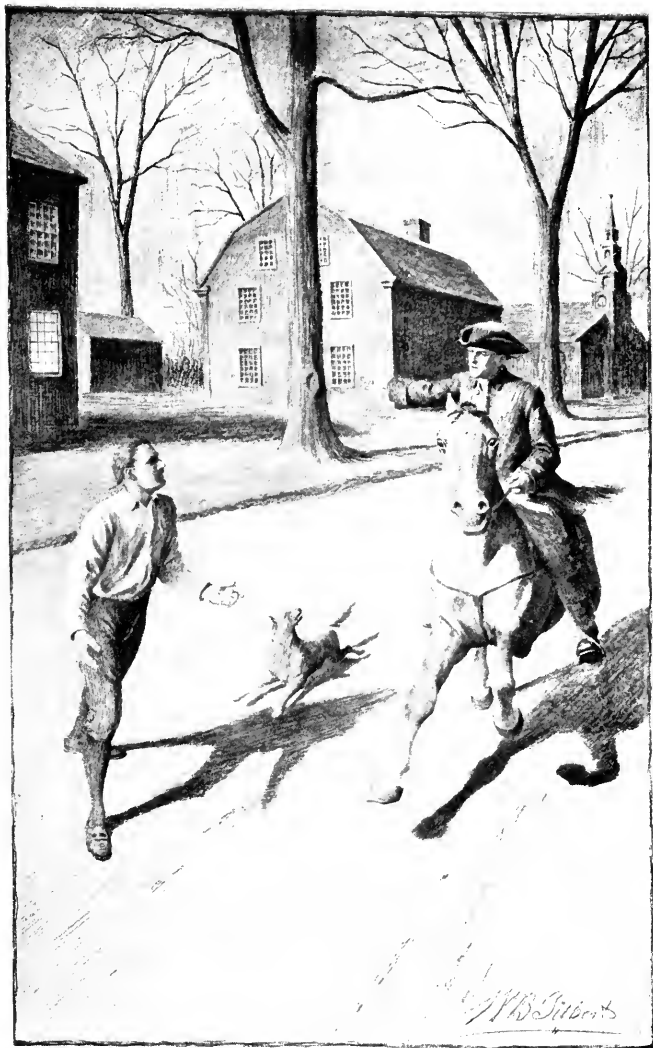
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HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION.





“PAUL REVERE’S RIDE.”—Page 21

HEROES
OF OUR
REVOLUTION

Thomas
BY
T. W. Winthrop
HALL

ILLUSTRATED BY
W. B. GILBERT
And Others



NEW YORK
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TO
OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

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HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION

CHAPTER I.

CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION—OUR DEBT TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH—THE SONS OF LIBERTY—THE BOSTON MASSACRE—SAM ADAMS' REGIMENT—THE BOSTON TEA PARTY—PATRICK HENRY.

IF I should ask you, Boy, to tell me what were the causes of the American Revolution, you would promptly answer The Stamp Act, Taxation Without Representation, and The Quartering of English Troops upon the Colonists. Your answer would be correct. These were the immediate causes. As a matter of fact, however, there were other, deeper and more important causes, and these were as old as the colonies themselves.

Religious freedom, the very thing that drove many of the English and French colonists to the new land, was in danger as soon as England began to tighten her hold on the colonies. This she did as soon as the colonists had planted themselves securely and become a prosperous, money-making

community, firmly established and rapidly developing. Until then she paid little or no attention to the colonies, and the colonies were equally glad to pay as little attention to the government of England. Like loyal citizens they helped the kings of England in their wars, and fought French and Indians time and again for the mother country. In one of these expeditions they even succeeded in capturing Louisburg in Canada, which was then held by the French. Now this was no trifling achievement. This city was fortified at great expense in the same manner that European cities were fortified under the system of Vauban, a famous military engineer. Being newly fortified the work was done very scientifically and the city was known as the Gibraltar of America. Indeed the French were as much surprised at its capture as the English would be to-day to hear of the capture of Gibraltar. Now while the colonists were helped by the English ships in this undertaking, they really effected the capture of the city themselves. The ships prevented the French ships from bringing reinforcements to the beleaguered town, but the colonists, consisting mostly of backwoodsmen and sailors, did the actual fighting against the fortifications.

These backwoodsmen and sailors already knew how to fight at sea and against Indians as well as, if not better than, any other men, and when they captured this great fortified town they were very

much elated. They suddenly perceived that they could fight against regular soldiers with success, and even take the most scientifically fortified cities. Perhaps they got too good an opinion of their ability. At any rate they began to feel quite independent and masterful, and the king became alarmed. He gave Louisburg back to the French in order that it might be a menace to the colonists and hold them in check. This was a nice fatherly way of providing for his subjects in America, was it not? He laid them open to attack from the French and Indians, because he was afraid of their growing importance and strength. To this extent also he prevented them from developing, which they had been doing in a wonderful way, wresting New York from the Dutch, and the southern colonies and what was then the great unknown West from the Spanish and French.

So the king gave orders to the governors of his colonies, as our States were then called, to be more severe with their people, and he began to insist that they collect taxes to be paid to England to help carry on her wars. He made little or no attempt to interfere with religion, but the colonists feared that he might in time, and it is safe to say that he would have done so if he ever acquired sufficient power over his American colonies, for there was a great diversity of religions in America even at that time, and the English nation had an established church.


Now this matter of religious freedom, the right to worship God in the manner dictated by one's conscience, was a matter of vast importance to these American colonists. It was dearer to them than life itself. Boston in fact, is situated upon land that was once the property of a hermit, one William Blackstone, who lived alone with his books in order that he might be free in his religion. It is hard to realise such a state of affairs in our day when everyone recognises the right of another to believe what his conscience tells him to believe and to worship God as he pleases,—in our day, when the whole world is aroused to such a state of sympathy with the misfortunes of one poor Hebrew soldier, Captain Dreyfus of the French army, that the French are fearing that they have lost all their friends and allies by persecuting the man. There have been times when good Christians would have rejoiced at the persecutions of a man whether he was innocent or guilty, merely because he was a Hebrew. But those times, fortunately, have passed.

So the desire for religious freedom, you see, was the first step towards social equality and personal freedom. This is one of the many things for which we have to thank the Christian church. And as the personal and political freedom, and equality of men is due in this measure to the Christian church, so the freedom of women, which in your day will extend to their right to vote and

hold any description of political office, is due to the freedom of men. What mighty blessings have come from the deep religious conscience of those old colonists! And they are more than you think, Boy, in a practical way. None but men and women of such stern, intrepid character could have settled permanently in a country so bleak and in many ways uninviting as the Eastern shores of America. The ground had to be freed from countless rocks, the forest from murderous Indians and the forests cleared away before the beautiful farms of the East were possible. It is a very fortunate thing that our country was discovered from the East and not from the West therefore. If we had been discovered from the West the first colonists would have landed in a Paradise, almost—certainly in a land of wonderful plenty. Their life would have been one of comparative ease, and they would never have bred a race of men strong enough or even inclined to develop the rugged East, which is now the richest and greatest portion of the country.

There was still another cause which is generally overlooked, for this suspicion and growing hatred of the colonies for the mother country. As far back as 1740 an attempt was made by an English naval officer, Commodore Knowles, to impress American seamen into the naval service of England. One winter day in Boston he swooped down on the wharves and carried away to his ships,

not only skilled American seamen, but also ship carpenters and boys. There was an immediate riot. The town was ablaze with indignation, and excitement ran high. The Revolution might have started then and there had it not been for the English Governor Shirley, who became frightened and made the Commodore return the men to their homes. It is strange to think that the cause of the war of 1812 with England came near bringing on the Revolution a generation before the proper time. For you will remember that these Englishmen, who want to impress us with their friendliness now, wanted to impress our citizens for service on their warships when we were a weak, young nation.

 You will see therefore that matters were gradually drawing to a climax, coming to a focus as we say. The English government was becoming alarmed at the growing strength of the colonies. The colonists were commencing to fear for their religious and personal freedom. The English government was beginning to tax the colonies. The colonists were beginning to perceive the injustice of taxing them except for their own benefit, and of taxing them for the support of the general government of England, in which they had no representation. The English government was becoming weak and poor from constant wars. The colonists were commencing to appreciate their strength from their success in the French and

Indian wars. The whirlwind was gathering force, was commencing to revolve—and when it finally burst upon England it revolved things so completely that we call the war it produced our American Revolution.

In autumn of 1760 George the Third ascended the throne of England. His ambitious mother coached him in the following words: "Be King, George; be King." He answered that he would be King indeed—and like most kings began to look about immediately for more money for his empty treasury. To get it he and his parliament proceeded to tax the colonies. He was the first English monarch since King John to attempt to tax subjects of his except by their own representatives. We can laugh at the poor fool to-day. But that piece of his idiocy was a tragedy then.

To-day, on account of the late war with Spain, and our present war in the Philippines, we pay a tax on business papers, legal documents and many other things. We do it cheerfully, as we are taxed by our own representatives in Congress and by our own consent. But in 1763 Lord Bute proposed that the American colonists should pay such a tax for the benefit of King George the Third and his empty coffers. In 1765 such an act was passed, and the trouble began. The people were dismayed. It meant not only expense to them, but a blow at their liberties. Benjamin Franklin was in England at the time. He wrote to America,

"The Sun of Liberty is set; the Americans must light the lamps of industry and economy." In America, "No taxation without representation" became the watchword of the people. Bands of men determined to preserve the rights of the colonists were formed in New York, Boston, and many other of the principal cities and towns. They called themselves "Sons of Liberty" and declared that they would prevent the enforcement of the Stamp Act. To-day we call them the "Fathers of Liberty." These men were all heroes of our Revolution, as was Franklin, though the latter and perhaps some of the former did not take part in the actual conflict.

The people rose as one man. A general congress was called to meet in New York. There was a prompt riot in Boston, which the king then considered the most impudent and unruly city in his colonies. There the Sons of Liberty marched through the town shouting "Liberty, property, and no stamps." They frightened Lieutenant-Governor (afterwards Governor) Hutchinson, a Tory (that is, an adherent of the English government) nearly out of his wits, and hung effigies of Lord Bute on the trees. The Sons of Liberty committed no violence, but an unruly rabble that followed them plundered the government storehouses and wrecked Hutchinson's house. These acts were condemned by the Sons of Liberty, but they did not abate their opposition to the Stamp

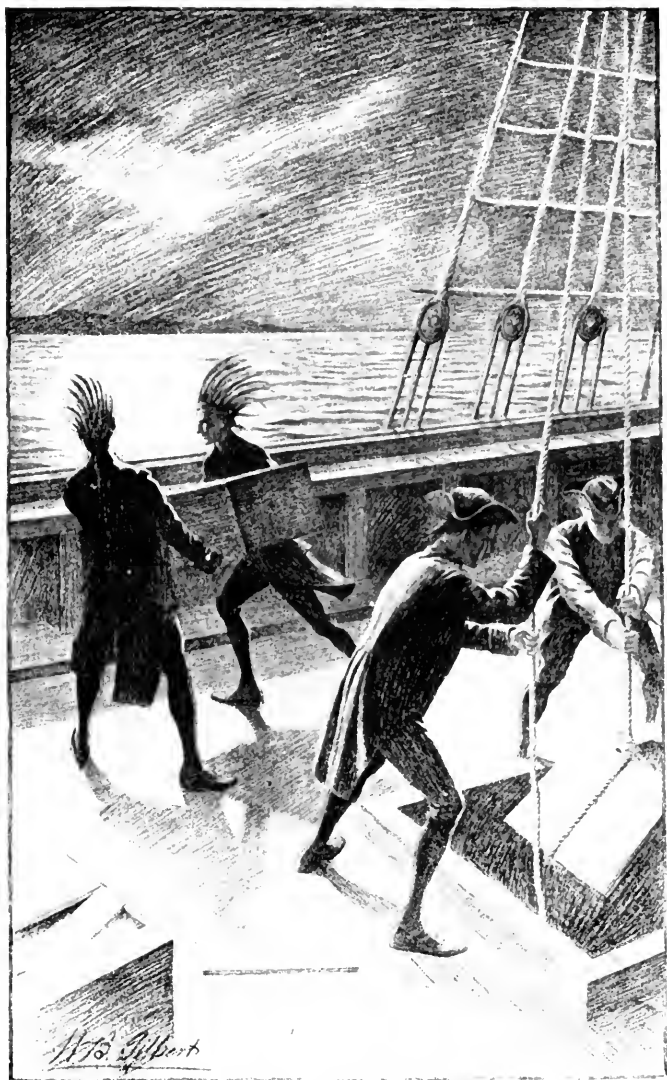
Act. On the contrary, they destroyed the stamp paper sent over by England, and the New York congress petitioned the king and parliament. As no one would use the stamps business was brought to a standstill, even in the courts and customs houses. Eventually, in 1766, parliament repealed the Stamp Act.

Right here, Boy, it is only fair to the English to say that there were in England at this time prominent men, who recognised the rights of the colonists and who did all in their power to influence the king and parliament to observe these rights. Such men were Conway, Pitt, Burke and Barr. Again in our civil war, when the great mass of the English people wanted to side with the South and help break our country in two, there were men who successfully opposed the movement. The leader of these men was the celebrated John Bright, who, by the way, did not believe in war at all, but who did believe it was necessary to free the slaves.

Foolish King George was not through with the colonies, however. Two years after the repeal of the Stamp Act he sent troops to Boston. The people indignantly refused to furnish them with a barracks and they were camped, therefore, on Boston Common, and quartered in Faneuil Hall and the Town House. In the harbour the English kept a fleet of eight men-of-war. The Royal Officers now thought they were able to take care

of the Sons of Liberty without trouble. But nothing is more apt to bring about a disturbance of the peace than the constant association of natural enemies, and the people soon began to consider the red-coated British soldiers as such. There were a number of encounters between the people and the "lobster-backs" as the people called the soldiers, because of their red coats. The most important of these occurred on March 5, 1770. This was called the Boston Massacre. Some young men quarrelled with a sentry who challenged them as they were going home. A crowd gathered. Soldiers ran to the aid of the sentry, headed by a Captain Preston. Some of the soldiers fired. Three citizens were killed and eight wounded. The drums brought the two regiments of soldiers and the excited people of the town to the scene. More trouble appeared to be inevitable. But Governor Hutchinson appeared on the balcony of the Town House and promised that a full investigation should be made and Captain Preston gave himself up for trial. The next day a great meeting was held in Faneuil Hall, and the people sent a committee to Hutchinson demanding the withdrawal of the troops from the town.

Sam Adams, who is called the "Father of the Revolution," was at the head of the committee. He was a prominent Boston lawyer and a leader among the colonists. He was a young man when Knowles made his attempt to impress the Boston



"THE BOSTON TEA PARTY."—Page 13



sailors, and you may be sure that such an event made a deep impression on his mind. He wrote many articles for the newspapers, taking the side of the colonists, and even wrote a petition to the king, to which the latter paid no attention. By his advice the patriots throughout all the colonies agree "to eat nothing, drink nothing, wear nothing" that came from Great Britain. This was to prevent the British from collecting taxes on certain articles which were imported from the mother country, for parliament and foolish George III. had again attempted to tax the Americans. At this suggestion women gave up wearing handsome dresses made from imported cloths and put spinning wheels in their drawing-rooms, with which they proceeded to produce the necessary stuffs to clothe the colonists. Homespun became the fashionable wearing apparel and all gave up drinking tea.

It was Samuel Adams who appeared before Governor Hutchinson and demanded that the two regiments of British troops be withdrawn from Boston. Governor Hutchinson tried to satisfy him with one, but Sam was as firm as a rock, and the mortified Governor, burning with rage, was compelled to assent. After that those two regiments of British troops were called "Sam Adams' Regiments." What a scene that must have been when Sam Adams clothed in plain homespun stood before the Governor and his twenty-four

councillors and a number of British officers, the former resplendent in powdered wigs, gold-laced hats and scarlet waistcoats, and the latter in their brilliant uniforms, and made them do what he demanded in the name of the people! He, too, was one of the Heroes of the Revolution.

On account of all this the English parliament made a concession to the "patriots," as they were now beginning to be called and to call themselves. It took off the tax on everything but tea. But the Americans were fighting the principle, and while a solitary article was taxed they felt that they must resist. The merchants, therefore, refused to import tea, and the patriots and their wives and daughters still declined to drink it.

They made tea of raspberry leaves, of thyme, and other shrubs, and drank that instead. In consequence of this the merchants of England found themselves with a great deal of tea on their hands which they could not sell. These merchants were as short-sighted as the king and his advisers. They thought if they lowered the price of the tea Americans could be induced to buy it. So they lowered the price three pence a pound, which was very considerable reduction, loaded it on board ships and sent it across the Atlantic. The king was highly pleased at this act. When friends warned Lord North that an attempt to force tea upon the colonies would make trouble, the latter, who was the leader of the ministry, replied:

“The king will have it so. He means to try the question with the Americans.” On their side the Americans were quite ready to have it tried. The Boston committee of correspondence (such committees had been formed in all the colonies to keep each other advised so that they might act in concert) wrote the other committees that the tea would not be permitted to land, and the other committees replied that they would act in the same way.

The tea arrived in Boston in November, 1773, three shiploads of it. No one would buy it except Tory merchants who wanted it for Tory customers. The people, however, would not permit this. The people demanded that the tea be taken back to England. The ship captains could not take it back without a permit from the Custom House, and the Customs Officers refused to grant the permits. They were king's officers, and it was their intention to seize the cargoes of tea if they were not landed within a certain time, which they had a right, by law, to do. They could then turn it over to the Tory merchants. The date on which this could be done was the 17th of December. It was necessary that the patriots should do something before that time. Accordingly, on the night of the 16th, a great number of Boston men disguised, some as Indians and others in all kinds of outlandish costumes, went on board the ships and threw the tea into the harbour. You may be sure that there was a

merry Christmas in Boston that year for those people dressed in homespun.

It will be seen that most of the events of importance at this time occurred in or near Boston. This was not because the other colonies did not feel and act in the same way that Massachusetts did. But Boston was the most rebellious port, and the king thought that by stamping out the trouble there he would teach a lesson to all. Boston was not the only port where tea was sent by the British merchants. But at the others the people compelled the ships to sail back. New York City was also burdened with the king's troops like Boston, but the people refused to support them. In Virginia, as early as the Stamp Act, the eloquent Patrick Henry made a memorable speech in which he exclaimed : "Cæsar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third——" Here a number of members of the legislature in which he was speaking cried, "Treason ! Treason !" Henry waited a moment for silence and then continued—"—may profit by their example. If that be treason make the most of it."

Your mother has told you, Boy, that tea would make you nervous. Well, you may be sure that tea was making a great many people nervous in these old days. The three pence a pound in reduction was sufficient to pay the tax, so as a matter of economy the tax did not affect the colonists

at all. In addition the East India Company was willing to pay the tax itself. This company had seventeen million pounds of tea in its warehouses which it could not sell, and the company was threatened with ruin. Now George III. owned a great many shares in the company and the failure of the company would impoverish him, whereas if he could make the colonists buy the tea he would not only get the profit on his shares, but the tax also. That is the reason tea was picked out by him as the sole article to be taxed.

"There must be one tax," declared the king, "to keep up the right." So the throwing of the tea into the harbour was a blow at the king's own pocket-book as well as at what he considered his royal prerogative to tax the people. To explain still further the fury of the people at this tax on tea, it must be explained that the people of England themselves did not have to pay any tax on tea. Indeed, the colonies were taxed unjustifiably in many ways. England cared nothing for her colonies except for what money she could wring from them, and what men she could obtain to aid her in her wars. The colonists were forbidden to carry on manufactures except in a very small way, and were compelled to buy their manufactured goods of England. They might take iron ore from a mine, but they had to send it to England to be manufactured, at the same time paying a tax for exporting it. When it was man-

ufactured they bought it back and had to pay a tax for importing it. Nor were they permitted by England to carry on trade with any other country but England in most articles. All the furs caught by their hunters, and the fish caught by their fishermen, had to be sent to England. So with all the pitch, tar, turpentine, and ship timbers from their immense forests. In Maine every tree of more than twenty-four inches in diameter at a foot above the ground, could be cut down only for a mast for one of the king's ships. The colonies could not even sell freely to each other. To King George the colonies were much like the goose that laid the golden eggs. Like many another man he proceeded to kill that valuable goose.

CHAPTER II.

THE BOSTON PORT BILL — GENERAL GAGE —
THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS—THE
“ MINUTE-MEN ”—JOSEPH WARREN—PAUL RE-
VERE—LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

YOU can easily imagine, Boy, that the king was not in a very good humour when he heard of the Boston Tea Party. He made preparations at once to punish Boston and the Boston people. He had Lord North pass a bill in parliament ordering that after the 18th of June, 1774, no person should load or unload any ship until the town apologised and paid for the tea which had been destroyed. He recalled Governor Hutchinson to England and sent General Gage from New York to be military governor and enforce the Port Bill. Even English vessels had to land their goods at Salem or Marblehead. This was a severe blow to the prosperity of Boston, and of the entire colony. The wharves lay idle, the warehouses empty, merchants and traders had to stop business, which threw a great number of employees out of work. In addition to this provisions grew scarce. They could not be obtained from the other colonies, as all freight was carried in those days by water.

General Gage had another penalty to inflict upon the town also. He was ordered to carry out the Regulation Acts. These were orders of parliament which quartered more troops upon the town, forbade the holding of town meetings without the consent of the governor, save once a year, and vested all the power of government in the governor and officers appointed by the king or governor. The people now had something to struggle for more important than freedom from taxation. They were now denied rights that belonged to every Englishman.

They got around the provision forbidding them to hold but one town meeting a year by adjourning that one meeting from time to time and thus making it last a year. Then they got together the people of the entire colony, or rather their representatives, and adopted some declarations called the "Suffolk Resolves." These declared that the people would obey a Continental Congress, and the people of Massachusetts invited the people of the other colonies to send delegates to a Continental Congress, to be held in Philadelphia. All the colonies sent delegates except Georgia. The Congress met in September, 1774. An address setting forth their grievances was sent to the king by this congress of the colonies, and the delegates made an agreement to refuse to carry on any trade with Great Britain until their wrongs should be righted. The other colonies sympathised

with the people of Boston in more practical ways and sent them provisions whenever it was possible.

All this alarmed General Gage, and he determined to seize all the powder belonging to Massachusetts. Some he captured, together with two field-pieces that were in Cambridge. He failed to get some powder that was stored in Salem, however.

The colonists, on their side, foresaw war and began to prepare for it. Companies of militia were formed in every town and began to drill, under the instruction of veterans of the French and Indian wars. Alarm companies, called "Minute-men" for the reason that they were to be ready at a "minute's notice," held themselves ready to fight at any hour of the day or night. These were especially to guard the powder, arms and food that was being collected for what we may now call the American army, which was being formed in this hap-hazard but enthusiastic way.

During the winter of 1774-1775 a good supply of food and powder for the use of the men who were to be food for powder, was collected at Worcester and Concord. General Gage determined to destroy these stores. He sent two officers as scouts to study the best roads to Worcester and Concord. These scouts reported that at Concord the Americans had fourteen pieces of cannon and two mortars, besides stores of flour, fish, salt, rice,

and a magazine of powder and cartridges. The cartridges to which they referred were probably sacks of powder for the cannon, as cartridges for muskets were unknown at the time. The brass cartridges with which you are familiar to-day were not used until comparatively recently.

You will remember, Boy, that the Boston Massacre occurred on March 5th. Now the people of Boston held a meeting on every March 5th after that to keep the event in mind. The favourite orator in Boston at this time was Joseph Warren, one of the most brilliant men in Massachusetts, who was afterwards killed at Bunker Hill. Now, on March 5, 1775, it was a dangerous proceeding to make a Boston Massacre oration. General Gage occupied the town with troops, and it was understood that there would be an attempt to keep Warren from speaking. A number of officers of the king's army actually did attend the meeting in Old South Church, but Warren made his speech nevertheless, and Sam Adams and John Hancock, who afterwards was the first man to sign the Declaration of Independence, sat on the platform. The officers tried to interrupt Warren in his speech and one of them held some bullets up in his hand to intimate that they were what the people might expect if they opposed the king any longer. But neither Warren nor the people were frightened.

Things began to get warm for the more prom-

inent of the patriots, however, and Sam Adams and Hancock were obliged to leave Boston and take refuge in Lexington. All knew that General Gage meant to capture the cannon and stores in Concord, also. A number of mechanics, therefore, organised to watch the doings of the British and give information by messenger to the people of Lexington and Concord. One of these men was Paul Revere, a copper-plate engraver, who had been a lieutenant of artillery in the provincial army during the French and Indian wars.

On the 18th of April the soldiers were seen moving from the Common to the river. Word was sent to Warren, and he asked Paul Revere to warn the people of Lexington, and tell Hancock and Adams of their danger. Revere had promised the Charlestown people that he would hang a signal from the Old North Church when the soldiers moved. One lantern would mean that they had passed out over the Neck (Boston Neck, not Charlestown Neck), and two would mean that they were crossing the river in boats. He hung out the two lanterns, then hurried to his own boat, and made direct for Charlestown. There he got a horse and rode out over Charlestown Neck, toward Lexington and Concord, alarming the people as he went. The British horsemen were patrolling the road, but by taking a roundabout way he escaped them and got safely to Lexington. Hancock wanted to stay and fight with the farmers, but

Adams, was wiser, and knew that Hancock and himself were more necessary for other work. "We belong to the cabinet," he said, quietly, and by his persuasions and the entreaties of Dorothy Quincy, who was to be married to Hancock, and who was in the house with Hancock's aunt, induced John to go to Woburn, where they would be safe. In the meantime Revere and two companions set out for Concord. Revere was captured on the way, but one of the messengers succeeded in getting to Concord. Thus the whole country round was alarmed. Captain Parker had command of the Americans at Lexington. He assembled his men, but when he learned that the British were still far away, he told his men to go and rest until called together again. They had loaded their guns, and for the sake of safety (just as we take a cartridge out of a gun to-day, when it is not to be used) Captain Parker's militia fired a volley. This volley was heard by the British officers who had captured Paul Revere, and they took his horse and let him go.

While Revere was dashing over Charlestown Neck, Gage's troops (about nine hundred grenadiers and light infantry) began marching from their landing place toward Lexington. They marched in silence and supposed themselves unnoticed. Suddenly they heard the firing of guns and the pealing of church bells. Their secret was out. Colonel Smith, who commanded the

British, immediately sent back to Boston for reinforcements and sent Major Pitcairn, with a small body of men, on rapidly to Lexington. Pitcairn soon began meeting American scouts, who had been sent forward to watch for the approach of the British. He captured all of these save one Thaddeus Bowman, who eluded the soldiers and galloped back to Lexington to give the alarm that the British were near. Captain Parker had the drums sounded and gathered his men together. After his command had loaded their muskets with powder and ball, he delivered to them one of those characteristic short, sharp speeches, so common with Americans.

"Don't fire," said he, "unless fired upon ; but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."

It began right there.

Pitcairn waited for Colonel Smith to catch up with him. Then the entire body advanced against Captain Parker and his handful of men.

"Ye villains, ye rebels, disperse," cried Pitcairn.

A shot was fired by the British and followed by others. The Americans returned the fire. Then, being frightfully outnumbered, they slowly retreated, still firing. Eight of them had been killed and ten wounded. But two Englishmen were wounded. The British gave three cheers and passed on to Concord, greatly elated.

It was seven o'clock on a beautiful spring morning when the British entered Concord. It was

a great day, this April 19, 1775, Boy. The greatest movement in the history of the world for the freedom of mankind began on this spring day in the pretty town of Concord. The fruit trees were in bloom and the fields were already green with the growing grain. They looked more like a playground for children than a scene for a battle. And you know how happy and peaceful all people feel on an early spring morning. But the men of Concord were very tired this morning. They had been working all night removing and concealing stores. They got most of them out of harm's way.

But the British found about sixty barrels of flour, which they split open, some wooden spoons and trenches and three cannon. They burned the wooden articles and knocked the trunnions off the cannon. (The trunnion of a cannon is the short cylindrical projection on either side which rests on the carriage.) They also found about five hundred pounds of cannon balls, which they threw into the Concord millpond, and into various wells. Then the British divided. Part of them remained to hold the bridge which crossed the Concord River, while another moved on to the house of Colonel Barrett, where they expected to find more supplies—and part remained in Concord. At Colonel Barrett's they found some wheels for gun carriages, and were in the act of burning them when they heard firing at the bridge. They promptly hurried back. The Americans

had formed on a hill and were attacking the bridge. The two parties united and retreated to the centre of the town, where they joined the third party.

About noon the British set off on their return to Boston. They had accomplished all they could, but it was not nearly as much as they had hoped to accomplish. By this time the whole country was alarmed, and the country people had flocked from near and far. The roadsides, along which the British marched, were lined with minute-men and militia, who crouched behind the famous stone walls of New England or dodged from tree to tree like Indians and kept up an incessant fire upon the British troops. The march soon became a retreat, and the English commander tried to protect his main body by sending out flankers on either side, just as we do in war in these days. But the flankers fought in vain. Every minute more patriots arrived and their fire grew hotter and hotter. The British all the while were becoming more and more fatigued. The retreat soon became a rout and the rout almost a panic. At Lexington the panic became an actual fact. The regular troops, the pride of England, broke into a run. Their officers had to throw themselves in front and threaten death to the disobedient in order to restore any semblance of order. They were on the point of complete exhaustion when they were met by the reinforcements Colonel Smith

had wisely asked for when he heard the pealing of the bells and the firing of the guns the night before. These reinforcements proved to be an entire brigade of British troops under the command of Lord Percy. They formed a hollow square, and the tired and beaten troops of Colonel Smith rushed within it and flung themselves on the ground to regain their breath.

Now even Lord Percy became alarmed, and he cut the rest very short. The retreat was again taken up under much the same circumstances as before. The people of Charleston heard the sounds of the approaching guns. Messengers warned them of the cruelties of the British, who in a spirit of revenge were burning houses along the road and murdering the helpless inmates. Terrorised, the people of Charlestown fled out over the Neck into the country. Pell-mell into the town ran the British in great confusion hunting for refuge from the awful storm of bullets the Americans were sending after them. They asked for shelter, and the select men of Charlestown agreed to prevent further pursuit provided the British would not harm the town. Percy willingly agreed and the pursuit was ended. The Americans set a guard on Charlestown Neck, and the next day the British crossed back to Boston.

In the meantime the news of the battle was being carried far and wide, and the roads leading to Boston were crowded with troops hastening to

join the patriot forces. The battle of Lexington had opened the war of the Revolution. The farmers left their ploughshares, the mechanics their tools—all grasped their guns and flocked to Cambridge. All night and all day they tramped the roads converging towards Boston.

At Lexington the British made their first attack on the patriots. At the Concord Bridge the patriots made their first attack upon the British regulars with the terrible effect eventually that we have seen.

There is a monument upon the battle-field of Concord, upon which are carved four lines from a poem written by Ralph Waldo Emerson :

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world."

CHAPTER III

THE COUNTRY RISES—JOHN STARK AND ISRAEL PUTNAM—THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL—DEATH OF WARREN—WASHINGTON APPOINTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—HIS SUBORDINATE GENERALS—THE SIEGE OF BOSTON

THE news of the battles of Lexington and Concord went to the limits of the colonies as fast as strong men and good horses could carry it. Everywhere there was a call to arms. Throughout Massachusetts and her neighbouring colonies, wherever men were within reaching distance, they flocked to the scene of the immediate trouble as fast as they could travel.

Colonel John Stark, a New Hampshire veteran of the French and Indian wars, was in his saddle and headed for Boston within ten minutes after hearing of the fights of April 19th. Israel Putnam left his home without stopping to change his farmer's clothes and rode a hundred miles to Cambridge in twenty-four hours. Putnam was a man of wonderful daring and great impetuosity, who for ten years had been a soldier of renown in fighting against French, Indians and Spanish. He was one of what we will have to call the giant

heroes of the Revolution. Immediately upon his arrival at Cambridge he was put in command by common consent. He declared for war to the last extremity and was commissioned brigadier-general by the assembly of Connecticut at once.

Patriots poured in from every quarter and soon there were ten thousand of them surrounding the British forces in Boston. Although they were simply undisciplined farmers, General Gage did not dare venture out of Boston to attack them. He remembered very keenly the results of that disastrous expedition he had sent to Lexington and Concord. In fact he was for a time in a precarious situation. But on the 25th of May Generals Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne arrived from England with reinforcements. The British now numbered five thousand, but they had no doubt that they were far more than equal to the ten thousand untrained patriots, who knew nothing of military evolutions and whose usefulness in war consisted only of the ability to shoot straight.

"We'll soon find elbow room," said General Burgoyne, complacently. They did and that was about all they found.

General Gage was equally confident. He even offered to pardon all rebels who would return to their loyalty with the exception of Samuel Adams and John Hancock. But the Americans were not seeking pardon. The English decided

to fortify the hills of Charlestown. Their plans were promptly conveyed to the Americans, and Putnam and Colonel Prescott (an old soldier) were anxious to steal a march on the British and fortify those hills themselves. Warren thought this enterprise foolhardy and did not agree to it. He was overruled, however; and on the night of the 16th of June twelve hundred men under the leadership of Prescott started to build a redoubt (which is a small fortification) on Bunker Hill. Breed's Hill, which was still nearer Charlestown, seemed to be a better point to fortify, however, and they went on to it. During the night as they worked they could hear the British sentries on the ships and the sentries around Boston calling off the hours of the night. Each sentinel's post, Boy, has a number and commencing with No. 1 each calls off the hour. All save No. 1 add "All's well" to the call. No. 1 does not say this until the call has gone all around and he hears it from the last sentry, when he announces "All's well." This shows that the sentinels are all at their posts, all awake and that, literally, all is well on their posts. At the break of day the sentinel on the British man-of-war *Lively* discovered the works that were being erected and gave the alarm. The ship immediately commenced to cannonade the redoubt. The guns woke the British officers, and when they saw the redoubt they could hardly believe their eyes. It

commanded Boston and the British commanders saw that a battle was inevitable as soon as the Americans put their cannon in it. An immediate assault was decided on. This was called :

THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.

A British battery on Copp's Hill now opened fire on the low, grim-looking redoubt of the Americans and soon other ships and the remaining batteries of the British joined in making a perfect rain of iron upon the redoubt. The twelve hundred men, however, went silently on digging their fortifications. Everyone knew that the first actual battle of the war was now to take place. Crowds lined the shore and the roofs of the houses in Boston were black with people looking on. The fire was too hot for the Americans to complete their breastworks as far as they deemed it necessary, so they took advantage of a rail fence that ran down to the river (the Mystic), piled another rail fence on top of it and filled the spaces between with hay. It was just completed when John Stark came up with some New Hampshire and Connecticut troops, and he took his stand behind this rude protection. At two o'clock Warren arrived. He had not approved of the plan, but he had promised to help defend the works. Warren feared to risk the effect a possible defeat would have on the country. Putnam and Prescott took the contrary view and thought only of the

effect a glorious battle would have on the people. When Warren arrived Putnam offered to serve under Warren's orders, but Warren insisted that Putnam keep the command. Such was the spirit of our heroes of the Revolution. How different it was from the struggle of ambitious men to obtain high command for their own personal glory in the late war with Spain!

About three o'clock the British line advanced to the attack. Putnam rode along the American lines and ordered his men to hold their fire until the redcoats were within eight yards of the redoubt, and then to fire low, not higher than the waist-bands of the British. On came the redcoats in two dense columns, one commanded by Howe and the other by his subordinate Pigot. Their flags were flying and their drums were beating and they were a magnificent sight to the onlookers in Boston and Charlestown. Their bayonets flashed in the sunlight and they seemed to have no fear of ill-success: Every now and then they halted in their march to deliver a few volleys at the redoubt. In the redoubt, however, all was silence. Those undisciplined farmers were obeying orders like veterans—one of the remarkable traits of American volunteers even to this day. At last the redcoats reached the eight-rod dead line that Putnam had established.

"Fire" rang out the sonorous command in the redoubt, and a sheet of flame leaped out in an-

swer to it. The ranks of the British fell in rows, but those in rear pressed on. Rank after rank fell like the first, and at length, astounded and panic-stricken they wavered, broke and fled to the foot of the hill.

The patriots were wild with joy. Their cheers were echoed from all sides and they thought their battle was completed. But such was not the case. At the foot of the hill the British officers could be seen rallying their men and forming them for another charge. Putnam, observing this, mounted his horse and galloped back over the Neck for reinforcements. But the Neck was under too terrible a fire to be faced by anyone but a dare devil like Putnam, and he could not urge any more troops forward. So he hastened back to the redoubt.

When he arrived the British columns were again on the march up the hill. Charlestown had now been set on fire by the British in the hope that the smoke would settle upon the redoubt and blind the eyes of the sure-shooting patriots. But a favourable breeze carried the smoke seaward. It but added, therefore, to the awfulness and solemnity of the scene. The second assault of the British was but a repetition of the first. Indeed they suffered even more than they did in the first charge, and some of the soldiers, after running back to the foot of the hill, continued on to the boats and tried to make their way back to Boston.

Their officers prevented them, however, and they were soon reinforced by troops under Clinton, who had been sent across for that purpose.

Again they advanced to the charge. The British had been reinforced, while the Americans had failed to get the help which Putnam went after. This time the British came clear on to the breastwork, and the two armies fought over it. But the ammunition of the Americans had given out and they were without bayonets. In this extremity they fought with their clubbed muskets until they were slowly driven from the field. Stark behind his rail fence held his ground long enough to cover the retreat of the rest and saved the army from capture. Putnam rode among the men wild with anger and mortification, and tried to get them to rally on Bunker Hill. But his efforts were in vain. Warren, too, did his utmost to stop the retreat, and standing between the American lines and the British, pointed to the mottoes on their flags and begged the troops to stand. While he was in this exposed position a British officer who knew him snatched a musket from one of his soldiers, aimed at Warren and killed him. The Americans retired to Winter and Prospect Hills, and night closed the conflict. Two thousand men were left dead and dying on the battle-field, of whom nearly fifteen hundred were English. Although the battle-field remained in the hands of the British, the battle was practi-



“THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.”—Page 34

cally a victory for the Americans, and was soon recognised to be such by the British themselves. The news spread over the country like wild-fire, and had precisely the effect that Putnam and Prescott had predicted and struggled for. The patriots were greatly cheered, though all wept over the fall of Warren, who was one of those unfortunate heroes who die too soon to learn of the glory they have won. His wife had died before him, but his orphaned children lived to know the gratitude of the whole people.

In the meantime the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia. On the motion of John Adams, of Massachusetts, George Washington, of Virginia, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the American forces.

It is hardly necessary to tell an American boy much about George Washington. They all know that he was a man of tremendous will power, strong passions and an equally strong physique. In fact he was a giant. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22, 1732, and was now forty-three years of age.

It is a strange thing, is it not, Boy, that the shortest month in the year contains the birthdays of our two most illustrious men, Washington and Lincoln? But we could afford to give the whole twenty-eight days of February up to holiday sport if each one was the birthday of an American like them. Both of them were of great height and

both were fitted exactly to the needs of the people in their two greatest emergencies. In every other way they were different, however. Washington was a descendant of very aristocratic families, while Lincoln's people were obscure. Washington was of handsome appearance and of very elegant manners, while Lincoln was ungainly and rather rough. Washington held himself rather above people engaged in mere trade, while Lincoln was not only a tradesman at one time in his life, but had been practically a common labouring man. Again, Washington was a natural-born soldier, while Lincoln was far from that. Lincoln needed a complement in the nature of a great soldier like Grant, while Washington was all in all himself. Lincoln was probably never under actual fire, though he was a volunteer in the Black Hawk war. Yet Lincoln was killed by the first shot that was, in all probability, ever fired at him. On the contrary Washington went through several wars, often exposing himself recklessly, and was never hit. Even the Indians, who made Washington a mark and tried to kill him at any cost, eventually gave up in despair, concluding that he bore a charmed life and was especially protected by the Great Spirit. Washington was extremely fastidious in his dress, while Lincoln was careless in that matter.

It would seem, however, that both of these great men had been especially trained for the great

part they were to play in their country's history. Especially was this so of Washington. Long before the war of the Revolution was thought of, Washington had earned a reputation as a soldier of great ability, and his fame as such had even gone abroad to other lands. After his first battle in the French and Indian Wars he wrote the famous words "I have heard the bullets whistle and believe me, there is music in the sound." This sounded like bombast to the people of England, and when they heard that Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of what they called "the rebel army" they laughed at him. They did not appreciate the fact that he was a natural-born soldier, and they did not know the great value of his services at Braddock's memorable defeat, when he saved the routed army from utter annihilation. Nor did they realise that from Indian warfare he had learned a mode of fighting which they did not understand at all.

At that time European armies fought in dense masses after the manner of the soldiers of Marlborough and Frederick the Great. Indeed the art of war was not very well developed in many ways at the time. The muskets of the period were not very deadly at a distance, and troops often, if not always, fought hand to hand. Two armies would draw up facing each other and simply fight it out until one side or the other gave way. Frederick the Great invented a system of massing

a greater number on one end of his line than the enemy had, and would break down a flank by sheer superiority of numbers. The flank once broken, he would turn and roll his opponent's army back on itself until it became panic-stricken and fled. Even Napoleon would not be able to understand the science of war as it is to-day. In his time there was no such accurate firing as there is to-day. Men blazed away at each other indiscriminately, and the shots fell where they would. Our own General Jackson, at the battle of New Orleans, gave the world its first lesson in the use of actual trained marksmen. His riflemen slaughtered the regiments of Pakenham, who fought in dense masses. Yet these troops of Pakenham had fought under him in the army with which Wellington beat Napoleon's best Marshals, and eventually Napoleon himself.

The patriots of the Revolution were probably quite the equal of the British soldiers as marksmen, but they were wholly without discipline and so lacking in military training that it was impossible for them to make a simple change of front on the field of battle. In addition they were now too self-confident. The battle of Bunker Hill made them think for a time that it would be easy enough to whip the British under anything like equal conditions, and as a consequence they did not see the need of the severe discipline necessary to an army.

On this account it was well that a man of the foresight, patience and endurance of Washington, was put in supreme command. He started for Cambridge on the 21st of June, 1775. He had gone but part of the way when he met a courier, who brought tidings of the battle on the 17th. When told how the militia had behaved he was greatly pleased, and exclaimed: "The liberties of the country are safe." Even he did not then realise the gigantic task he had to perform. He reached Cambridge on the second of July, and on the 3d took command under the great elm near the Common in Cambridge. So, you see, Boy, if Washington had taken command of the army we would celebrate the event on the same day that we do the Declaration of Independence.

Washington found a motley assemblage of men when he looked over his army of volunteers. Coming from different parts of the country they were, of course, dressed very differently from each other. Some wore the blue coats with yellow trimmings of the Continentals; some had even the red uniforms in which they had fought for the English, in the wars with the French. The Virginians were dressed in the garb of backwoodsmen, and the fishermen and sailors of the New England colonies wore their typical round jacket. Some even wore homespun or brown jeans. There was great rivalry between these men from different sections, just as there had always been rivalries

among the colonies, and a few fist fights resulted. But as a rule they realised that for the first time they were united in a common cause, and all soon became comrades in the best sense of the word.

Washington found their camps very rude affairs, indeed. Most of the tents were hastily constructed out of sails, and there were not nearly enough of these. Most of the troops lived in rude huts made out of stone, brick, planks—anything they could get. There was little military discipline and less attempt at military instruction. The officers knew as little about the art of war or even ordinary drilling, which is the A B C of the art of war, as the men. The only troops who were an exception to this rule were those of Rhode Island, headed by Nathaniel Greene. These had good tents, were properly equipped and maintained a correct camp discipline. As Washington's first duty was to teach just such discipline, and bring order out of the chaos he saw around him, Greene's troops became an object lesson for the rest of the army.

Besides appointing Washington Commander-in-Chief, the Continental Congress had appointed four major-generals and eight brigadier-generals. You know, Boy, that the next higher office than colonel is brigadier-general. The brigadier commands a brigade, which is composed of two or more regiments. When two or more brigades are united they form a division, and are commanded

by a major-general. When two or more divisions are united they form an army corps. This corps, also, is usually commanded by a major-general. When two or more army corps are united they form an "army," which is usually designated by some geographical distinction, such as the "army of the Tennessee" or the "army of the Potomac." This army may be commanded by a major-general, a lieutenant-general, or by the plain general—and the plain rank of "general" is the highest in the army. Since the Revolution the President of our country is always the Commander-in-Chief both of the army and navy. Now, as he has a great many things to do, he usually turns over the command of the army to his Secretary of War. The latter, as a rule, is chosen for political rather than military reasons, and as a result the heads of the war and navy departments are more apt to be lawyers than soldiers. Nothing could be worse than an arrangement of this kind, and it is to be hoped that when the boys of your age become grown men and voters, you will make some change in the arrangement of affairs. Even at the present day a lawyer is at the head of the war department. He knows nothing whatever of military affairs, and yet the country is at war in the Philippines. It reminds one, Boy, of the opera Pinafore, where one of the principals became ruler "— of the Queen's navee" because for years he had polished up the handle ("— so carefuller") of the big front

door that gave entrance to the office of the lawyers for whom he worked. Once in our short history a man was appointed Secretary of the Navy, who had never been on a ship in his life. On his first visit to a man-of-war he saw that it was not solid like the toy boats he used to cut out of a shingle when he was a boy, and he exclaimed in astonishment, "My, it's hollow," to the great amusement of the naval officers who surrounded him.

But to return to Washington and his patriots:—the officers appointed major-generals were Israel Putnam, Artemas Ward, Charles Lee and Philip Schuyler. The brigadier-generals were Seth Pomeroy, Richard Montgomery, William Heath, Joseph Spencer, David Wooster, John Thomas, John Sullivan and Nathaniel Greene. In their respective grades they ranked in the order named. Washington himself was a major-general as well as commander-in-chief. Of these General Ward resigned in less than a year, though he commanded the right wing of Washington's army during the siege of Boston. He was a lawyer and a man of incorruptible integrity, but not a soldier of any great attainments. General Heath served during the entire war, but did not get into the thick of the conflict. He was a man of ability, however. He had a command under Washington during the latter's famous retreat through New York, and commanded the troops in New

York while Washington was in the New Jersey campaigns. Later he took command of Boston and had charge of the prisoners captured when Burgoyne surrendered and was again put in command of the Highlands when Washington was besieging Cornwallis. General Thomas was a veteran of the French and Indian wars. He served during the siege of Boston, and afterwards accompanied Montgomery's expedition to Canada. On the death of Montgomery he succeeded to the command, but could not get on with General Arnold and the latter left him. He was eventually obliged to retreat from Canada. On the retreat he was taken with the smallpox and died. General Wooster also took part in the invasion of Canada. After the failure of the expedition he took command of the militia of Connecticut and died heroically at the head of his men when the traitor Arnold attacked Danbury. Some of the other brigadier-generals rose to high position during the war, and of them I will tell you later. Of these Greene is the most conspicuous example. He was the lowest ranking brigadier-general but eventually became the greatest general of the war, save only Washington. Had the latter been killed during the war Greene would probably have taken his place at the head of the army.

In addition to these generals Horatio Gates was made Adjutant to the army with the rank of

brigadier-general. Of him also there is much yet to be said. Of course there were many more major-generals and brigadier-generals appointed from time to time during the war.

The worst disappointment Washington received when he took command at Cambridge was the discovery of the fact that the army was very short of powder. He had been told that there were three hundred barrels of it on hand. He found that there were actually but thirty. Many of his cannon, too, were useless. Under such circumstances Washington could not take the offensive against the British in Boston. People wondered why he did not drive them out, but Washington would not tell the reason. He did not propose to let the British learn the secret, for if they had known it they would have attacked him and driven him away. In fact the British generals were afterwards severely criticised for not doing this. The months passed by in the meantime, and the people became impatient. It is always the way in war. The stay-at-homes lose control of their nerves and patience and hysterically cry for an immediate victory. Such was the case in our civil war. The people of the North demanded action so strenuously that General McDowell was at length obliged to yield to them and fought the first battle of Bull Run when he was unprepared to do so. Even then he was beaten by the accidental arrival of Confederate reinforcements.

This made him a victim of circumstances and he deserves the greatest sympathy. He was one of the most brilliant generals in the North, but the loss of this battle made the people lose confidence in him. The authorities say that he planned the battle as well as Napoleon could have planned it, and he had turned the enemy's left wing and was on the point of driving them from the field when the reinforcements falling upon his undisciplined men from the rear threw them into a panic. There was a similar feeling when the war with Spain occurred, and but for it our troops would have gone to Cuba better supplied. When you are a man, Boy, if the country is unfortunate enough to get into a war, use your influence with the people against this foolish impatience which has always handicapped our generals.

Washington was the kind of man who could not be disturbed by the clamours of the people, however, and he waited until he was ready. Fortune favoured him. Ethan Allen captured the fort at Ticonderoga and with it large supplies of cannon, mortars, howitzers, lead and flints, as well as powder. This was quite a feat, you may be sure. Allen, at the head of two hundred and thirty men, surprised the fort, drove the sentry away after his gun had failed to explode, and running to the room where the British commander was sleeping demanded the immediate surrender of the fort "In the name of the great

Jehovah and the Continental Congress." This made Allen at once a prominent man, but while with the army of Montgomery in the invasion of Canada he carelessly permitted himself to be captured. He was shipped to England a prisoner in irons, and was not exchanged until 1778. He was then appointed a brigadier-general, but performed no active military service after his promotion.

His capture of military supplies, however, was a windfall. Washington immediately sent Henry Knox to bring the much-needed stores to Cambridge. Knox had a hard time getting means of transportation, but eventually he made strong sleds (it being winter time) and with eighty yoke of oxen succeeded after many difficulties in getting them to Cambridge in February of 1776. In the meantime Washington occupied his army by throwing up fortifications around Boston. When they were completed he had a line of defences nearly nine miles in length, which stretched from the Mystic River to Dorchester Neck. This completely shut up the British in Boston, though they could escape by sea at any time. Unfortunately the colonies did not at that time have any navy.

The British had a hard time of it in Boston, however. Food was scarce and fuel scarcer. Pork and beans was their staple dish. They had little or no fresh meat. General Gage's wife was an American and Putnam sent her fresh meat for

her own table several times. This may seem a queer thing to do considering the circumstances. But in some way or other Washington always heard promptly of all of General Gage's plans, and it has been supposed that the wife of the English general was the source of his information. Early in the winter, however, General Gage was recalled to England, and General Howe was placed in command. He was considered a more aggressive commander than Gage, but did nothing except wait for an attack from Washington.

When Knox arrived with the cannon, the latter immediately mounted the guns in the batteries he had erected and fired some shots into Boston to alarm the British. Then he began fortifying points still nearer to Boston. On the 5th of March he fortified Dorchester Heights. It was the anniversary of the Boston Massacre which made the Americans work with a redoubled will. In one night they threw up intrenchments as they had previously at Bunker Hill, and at daybreak the astonished English beheld two forts looking down upon them.

"The rebels have done more in one night than my whole army would have accomplished in a month," exclaimed Howe. The British bombarded the works, but did not succeed in driving the Americans, who were still at work, away. Washington expected that the British would attack the works as soon as they saw them, and

was prepared for a battle. If the British did attack them it was planned that Putnam was to cross the Charles River and take Boston while part of the British were away making this attack. But the British were slow. Howe decided to make a night attack. But a furious storm arose, the surf ran high and the boats could not make a landing. The storm continued through the following day, and by the time it had ceased the American works were too strong to be taken by assault.

The British now began to think seriously of getting away from Boston. There was no telling what this energetic American general might do next, and it would not do to have the king's fine army captured. They did not care to be disturbed while leaving, either, for that might result in great loss to them ; so they had the Tories of the town send a letter to Washington stating that if he permitted the British troops to leave in peace they would spare Boston, but if he attacked them while they were embarking on their vessels they would set the town on fire. Washington did not reply but he ordered the firing to cease in his batteries and waited for the British to move out. He was well content to capture the town and drive the British away.

Howe did not move out, however, so Washington gave him a huge prod by erecting a fortification on another hill called Nook's Hill, from which his cannon could rake the streets of the

city. This was on the 16th of March, and then the English began to make haste about moving. On the 17th they boarded their boats, accompanied by many Tories with their families. When they retreated from Charlestown they abandoned the redoubt they had captured on Breed's Hill, leaving dummies made of straw to represent their sentinels. The patriots discovered the trick shortly and immediately took the redoubt and followed on into Boston. Here the streets were strewn with "crow's feet" to bother the pursuers. These crow's feet are iron prongs. To-day every farmer has a better thing than any number of "crow's feet" in his barbed wire fences. These are the worst things ever invented to bother an army while marching. They were invented by Americans and were first used for military purposes against the Americans in the war with Spain.

The British sailed first to Halifax and then to New York, and Washington took full possession of Boston, which was not thereafter disturbed during the war.

No one could now sing the praises of Washington too highly. The whole country was filled with joy at his success, and Congress presented him with a large gold medal in recognition of his services.

A few months later, on the 4th of July, the Declaration of Independence was signed and given to the world. Thereafter the colonies began to call themselves States.

CHAPTER IV

BENEDICT ARNOLD — HIS TROUBLES WITH ALLEN—INVASION OF CANADA — TERRIBLE MARCH THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

DURING the siege of Boston other events were happening. One of these was the capture of Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen, where, Boy, you will remember a number of cannon and general military stores fell into the hands of the Americans. Now it will be interesting to you to watch how men come into prominence in this war which had just begun, notice their character and the influence their personality had upon events of the war.

This man Ethan Allen was a strong, headlong man to whom fear was utterly unknown. He was heart and soul with the American cause, and was well suited to what we call to-day "guerilla" warfare. He could make a dashing exploit with a few men, but he was without the military training or the naturally scientific mind to handle a large body. War is not a mere matter of fighting. It is a science. Allen was a good fighter at the head of a few men. But even in guerilla warfare he was, as

you have been told, too rash, and was captured through the fault of his own rashness. His failings were well understood, and that is probably the reason why he did not take much of a part in the war after his exchange had been effected.

But side by side with Allen when he entered the fort at Ticonderoga was another man who was one of the most remarkable characters the Revolution brought forth. We can hardly call him a Hero of the Revolution, however, though he, too, was an utter stranger to fear, had the qualities of a general which Allen lacked, and fought and bled for America. The name of this man?

Well, in the chapel of the military academy at West Point, there are a number of shields commemorating the names of the generals of the Revolution. On one of these shields the name is chipped out. The name thus erased as a solemn warning to the young men who are being trained to be officers of the United States army is "Benedict Arnold." And that was the name of the man who entered the gates of the fort at Ticonderoga side by side with Ethan Allen. You guessed the name, of course, because he was the only traitor to the American cause during the Revolution. American boys are brought up to hate his memory, and well they should be. He not only went over to the British for money and an office in their army, but he tried to betray some of our forts into their hands. Nevertheless the man

is to be pitied more than hated at this late day. He had been treated badly by the Continental Congress. He had deserved much from the people, and he saw others gather the laurels that rightfully belonged to him.

But he was by no means the only sufferer in that and in many other ways. There was a course open to him both honourable, proper and sensible. He could have resigned his commission and retired to private life. Many other of our revolutionary generals either resigned or were on the point of doing so several times. One of the most methodical, General Schuyler, was time and again on the point of resigning. One of the most heroic and at the same time most modest, General Montgomery, put his resignation in the hands of his subordinate officers during his invasion of Canada, and took it back only at their urgent request. One of the most resolute, able and daring, General Stark, who won one battle of importance while in command of the Americans who fought it, and was the immediate cause of one of Washington's most glorious victories, actually did resign for exactly the cause that angered Arnold. In our civil war no less a personage than General Grant almost made up his mind to resign under a somewhat similar provocation. Arnold, however, was too inflammable. When there was fighting it seemed to be a physical demand of his nature. He craved excitement much as did General Lee,

who was one of the high ranking major-generals of whom I shall tell you more presently.

Fate, with its strange perversity, put these two men, Allen and Arnold, side by side at the open gate of Fort Ticonderoga, the first clean-cut victory of the war. Fate put Arnold constantly in similar positions later in the war. To his credit it can be said that he seemed to have a great respect for Washington, and, had he been kept constantly with the main army under Washington's immediate eye, he might have come through the war with sufficient honour to satisfy even his ambition.

Arnold had been an adventurous man from youth, and at the breaking out of the war was captain of a company of Guards at New Haven. The news of the fighting at Boston brought the townspeople together on the public green, and among them he was the most conspicuous. He gathered together sixty volunteers, took the ammunition belonging to the town from the selectmen by a show of force and marched at once to Cambridge. From the Massachusetts Committee of Safety he obtained the commission of Colonel with power to raise four hundred men and make an expedition against Ticonderoga. He started at once for Western Massachusetts to raise men; but on arriving at Stockbridge learned to his intense disappointment that another expedition was ahead of him. This was the expedition

headed by Ethan Allen who had been sent out with the same purpose by the Connecticut people. He stopped but long enough to appoint officers to recruit for him and then posted on with but a servant after Allen. He caught up with the latter when they were within a forced march (about twenty-five miles) of Ticonderoga. Here he produced his commission and demanded command. There was trouble at once. Arnold was in the right to a certain extent, but he waived his claim eventually and suffered Allen to command while he went along as a volunteer.

When the fort was taken he again claimed command, but the Connecticut Committee declared Allen to be commander-in-chief of the garrison—rather an important name for so small a position, was it not? But the colonies were but just beginning to learn the necessity for a more centralised form of government, and there was trouble on account of such conflict of authority for many years after the commencement of the Revolution.

Arnold appealed to the legislature of Massachusetts, but before hearing from them headed a single company of about fifty men, who had been enlisted under his authority, and moved against another British outpost on the Sorel River called St. John's, sailing down Lake Champlain on a schooner. This he captured, getting there just ahead of the arrival of Allen, whom he met on the way back.

The Massachusetts legislature, hearing some untrue reports about Arnold, sent a committee to inquire into his conduct. When they found him he was at Crown Point, which had fallen into American hands with Ticonderoga, busily preparing to defend it against an expected attack from Canada. He was furious when he learned of the mission of the committee, and more so when he learned that he was to be put under the command of a Colonel Hinman. So he resigned his command, discharged his men who sided with him, and started post haste for Cambridge. The fact was that he had done nothing but what his warrant and commission entitled him to do. He was a creditor to the Massachusetts Committee to the extent of five hundred dollars (one hundred pounds), which in those days was a much larger sum, comparatively, than it is to-day; and, what was worse, he ranked Colonel Hinman, and declined to serve under a subordinate officer. No doubt, as early as this, the seeds of his eventual treason were sown by this unfortunate act of the Massachusetts legislature. It does seem, indeed, as though the man could not obtain justice from the countrymen he was so anxious to serve.

To you, to-day, Boy, Canada seems like another country; and from what you read in the papers and study in "current events" at school, it seems to be more English than England itself. In those days it was a province like the rest of the

colonies, but it was far less English than they were. It had been captured from the French but some years before, and was garrisoned in many places by English troops. The people loved the English even less than our own people did, but Canada had been the scene of warfare too long for the Canadians to relish another struggle unless they received substantial aid from the Americans. It was thought moderately certain that they would rebel, however, if their English oppressors were driven out; and the Continental Congress concluded to send an expedition against Canada. Besides gaining help from the Canadians, a successful expedition of this sort would protect the Americans from any English expedition that might easily be started from Canada, and also protect their frontier towns from ravages by the Tories of Northern New York, and the Indian allies of the English, for it was already discovered that the heartless English government meant to make use of savages in their warfare against their own blood. Generals Schuyler and Montgomery were already planning an expedition by way of Lake Champlain and Washington now conceived the idea of sending another through the north woods of Maine against Quebec. Even to-day the northern portion of Maine is a wilderness. Imagine, then, what it must have been in those days. Such an expedition would have the effect of a tremendous surprise on the English at Que-

bec, and the city would probably be taken with ease, but the difficulty of getting through those woods seemed almost beyond the possibility of being surmounted.

Washington was not the man to abandon an idea because it seemed difficult. He wanted only a man who would overcome obstacles. Arnold was just such a man. Washington knew that nothing short of death could stop him. Moreover, Washington had a very good opinion of Arnold's abilities, and considered that he had been dealt with unfairly. To Arnold, therefore, went the command. He was given a command of eleven hundred men, including a battery of artillery and a company of Virginia riflemen, under the celebrated Morgan.

Arnold was to sail from Newburyport to the Kennebec, ascend the latter, and strike across to the Dead River, following up the Dead to its source. From this point he was to cross the watershed to the sources of the Chaudiere, which flows in an opposite direction and enters the St. Lawrence, near Quebec. In those days the quickest and easiest means of travel were by water; and if you will look at the map in your geography you will see that Washington had picked out, what seems at a glance, to be an easy route. But those rivers ran through a dense uninhabited forest, they were filled with rapids and falls—and winter was approaching.

• Washington expected that Arnold would finish his journey before actual winter set in, but the difficulties of the task were greater than he imagined. It was not until the 13th of November, in this same wonderful year of 1775, that Arnold was able to transport his troops across the St. Lawrence. Even then he got only five hundred over, for immediate attack. Not the whole of the remainder had to remain on the south shore, however, for he had been deserted during the march by Colonel Enos and his command. He had, however, already accomplished, perhaps, the most wonderful march recorded in history. He had taken an invading army through two hundred miles of wilderness, carrying with him his artillery and stores, with no other means of transportation than birch-bark canoes, and the backs of his men. Even the canoes had to be carried at times. Provisions gave out, the faithful dogs that accompanied the men had to be killed and eaten, and, in the last extremity, the troops even boiled their moose-hide moccasins for such nourishment as could be extracted from them. Yet, in spite of all, this indomitable traitor, this man who never gave up anything but his country, succeeded.

It seems unfair that after accomplishing so much Arnold should eventually fail. Nor would he have failed but for just such a piece of treachery as he was later guilty of himself. He had

despatched letters to Generals Schuyler and Montgomery (having learned that they were nearing Montreal) by two Indians. These Indians played him false and took the letters to Caramhe, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Canada, who immediately had all boats on the south shore of the St. Lawrence removed, and drew in reinforcements from Nova Scotia. Arnold had to procure boats. A storm set in after he had obtained them. In the meantime Quebec was reinforced, also, by a force under a Scotch veteran named Maclean, and a frigate and sloop of war undertook to prevent the crossing. In spite of all, Arnold got over with his five hundred men, scaled the precipice, and stood on the Heights of Abraham, where Wolfe and Montcalm had fought for the possession of the same city years before.

Had Arnold made an immediate assault in the early morning he might have taken the city. Quebec was a walled town, but the gate of St. John's was open, the guard boats not having as yet alarmed the city. His subordinate officers were not in favour of so rash a proceeding, however. So Arnold made the mistake of demanding the surrender of the place, making at the same time as imposing a show of his force as he could. He counted, also, on the support of the French inhabitants of Quebec. But the latter abjectly promised to aid the lieutenant-governor, and he was also supported by the sturdy Maclean. He

would not surrender. Neither would he come out from his entrenchments and fight a pitched battle, as Arnold hoped, though he meditated doing so after he had been again reinforced by the sailors and marines from the ships. So after several days of waiting before the walls, Arnold, hearing of Montgomery's capture of Montreal, sent to the latter for assistance and drew back about twenty miles to await his arrival. On the march to the new camp, Arnold passed a boat going towards Quebec bearing Carleton, the Governor, who was fleeing from Montgomery. This boat had put in at the very point Arnold had chosen for a camping ground. Had he been there a day earlier he would probably have captured Carleton, and by doing so might have compelled the latter to surrender the city. At any rate it would have left a much weaker man in command to eventually thwart the combined forces of Montgomery and Arnold. Twice, therefore, had Fate played Arnold a cruel trick. After such superhuman effort he seems to have deserved much. We are warranted in wondering, Boy, if the Almighty, who rules our destinies, was not preventing Arnold from gaining too much renown in the early part of the war of the infant United States of America for independence. Had Arnold been able to betray a greater command to the British in later years it is doubtful whether our independence would have been achieved.

CHAPTER V

SCHUYLER AND MONTGOMERY—MONTGOMERY'S CAPTURE OF ST. JOHN'S—THE STORMING OF QUEBEC

WE must now go back to the summer of 1775 once more, and consider the other invasion of Canada.

This was the original project of both Ethan Allen and Arnold to move against Montreal by way of Lake Champlain. It was carried out, however, by entirely different men, and I shall therefore have to tell you about some other Revolutionary Heroes.

Throughout New York there were many Tories. The colony was conquered from the Dutch, and the English settlers were of more recent arrival than in the New England colonies, and depended more upon the home government to support them against the original settlers. Indeed, had it not been for three eminent New York men whose names are familiar to-day, it is doubtful if New York would have followed the other colonies into the war for independence. These men were Schuyler, Clinton and Woodhull, of whom the

two first named were the chief supporters of the new cause, one representing the Dutch settlers and the other the Americans. The city of New York, itself, was filled with Tories, and there were many in the upper part of the colony ; and these latter, in alliance with Canadians and Indians, threatened the people of New Hampshire and New England generally.

Philip Schuyler was a member of the second Continental Congress, and was one of the four original major-generals appointed by that body. So he became the natural commander of the patriots in New York. This gave him control of the forts captured by Allen and Arnold and, logically, of the expedition against Montreal. He was a man of fine education, a civil and military engineer, and had, like the others, military experience in the training school of the patriots, the French and Indian wars.

He was ordered to invade Canada in September, but fell sick and had to turn the command of the expedition over to General Montgomery. He then transferred his headquarters to Albany and held the Tories and Indians in check, protected the line of communications of Montgomery's army and forwarded supplies to it.

Richard Montgomery was a native of Ireland, and had been an officer in the English army. After serving in the French and Indian wars with the regular English army (and thus obtaining a

knowledge of the country he was later to operate in), he conducted himself with great gallantry in an English expedition against the French and Spanish West Indies. He afterwards resigned his commission in the English army, and, emigrating to America in 1772, became a farmer in Rhinebeck. He was a handsome, quiet, dignified man, and sided at once with the colonies in their struggle against the crown.

Congress made him a brigadier-general. He had no desire, he said, to abandon the quiet scheme of life he had prescribed for himself. But, to use his own words, "the will of an oppressed people, compelled to choose between liberty and slavery, must be obeyed." So he became one of Schuyler's two brigadier-generals. The other was Wooster.

Schuyler's army for the invasion of Canada was to consist of about three thousand troops. While Schuyler was making his preparations he sent Montgomery on with one thousand men to Crown Point. Here Montgomery learned that Governor Carleton of Canada was making preparations to place several armed ships on Lake Champlain, and Montgomery pushed on to the upper end of the lake where it emptied into the Sorel (or Richelieu) River, to prevent Carleton from doing so. About this time Schuyler fell sick, and the command of the whole expedition fell upon Montgomery. Without waiting for his entire

army to collect Montgomery pushed on down the Sorel River to Fort St. John, which was held by a British garrison nearly as large as the army Montgomery now had with him. He made little progress, therefore. His ammunition was scanty and his artillery ineffective. Moreover, a mutiny broke out in his army which would have broken it up but for Montgomery's eloquence and noble conduct. To get ammunition Montgomery sent a small force to capture Fort Chambly, which was situated still further down the river and which was but feebly garrisoned. In this way he obtained one hundred and twenty barrels of powder, and Fort St. John soon fell into his hands with its thousand prisoners and munitions of war.

It was a very plucky fight the Americans were making, wasn't it, Boy? They had to capture their powder and cannon and most of their small arms from the British in order to fight the British. It is quite a matter of wonder how it was done.

Montgomery now heard that Arnold with his small army was before Quebec just as Arnold had heard that Montgomery had captured St. John's. The country was delighted with Montgomery's success at St. John's and Congress appointed him a major-general.

Montgomery immediately pushed forward to Montreal and captured it without trouble, at the same time gaining mastery over a large part of Canada. Here he received Arnold's message

telling of his repulse at Quebec and of the destitution of Arnold's army. Montgomery at once put himself at the head of but three hundred men and pushed on to Arnold's relief over the frozen ground and through the driving snow, for you will remember that it was now November and that means the full blast of winter in Canada. It is a pitiful picture we have here, of Montgomery's tall, handsome form pushing ahead through the snow storms leading and cheering on his little band of rescuers and going from a victory that had made him the darling of the country to defeat and certain death.

It was the heart of winter when he joined Arnold, and when he did so these two men, so equally brave and yet so entirely different, cast about for some means to capture the city.

They did not feel that they were strong enough to carry Quebec and they did not have a force strong enough to make a regular siege of the place. Their artillery consisted of only six cannon and a howitzer; and when they placed these in a battery erected only forty rods from the walls of the town they utterly failed to make any effect upon it. There was now less hope than ever of help from within the town, for when Carleton had got safely into it the inhabitants who were friendly to the colonists and who hated and feared Carleton went out into the surrounding country in a body.

In the meantime the men began to suffer from the cold. They were insufficiently clad, and every day the cold was growing more intense and the snow deeper. To add to the distress smallpox broke out in the American camp. When men were attacked by it they wore little sprigs of hemlock in their hats. Every day the sprigs increased in number, and the men were thrown into a panic by the plague that had come upon them. Oh, if Arnold had only followed his own inclination to assault Quebec at once that first morning when he stood with his five hundred men on the Heights of Abraham, instead of listening to the advice of his council of war! In the meantime there was another mutiny which Montgomery had to quell, and at length he saw clearly that he must take the town by assault at once or retreat. Men and officers alike were for making the assault, and Montgomery gave the orders to make it on the night of the last day of that year full of importance to America, 1775—that year which had brought such an auspicious opening to the colonies in their struggle for independence and which was to end so disastrously.

THE STORMING OF QUEBEC.

Quebec was divided into two portions—the upper and lower towns. It was expected that the English garrison would expect an attack upon the upper town, exposed as it was more naturally.

Montgomery decided, therefore, merely to make a feint against this part of the city. Colonel Livingston was to make an attack on the gate of St. John's and set fire to it. At the same time Major Brown was to make a feint on the bastion of Cape Diamond at the other end of the upper town. It was expected that these two false attacks would draw the greater part of the garrison into the upper town. In the meantime Arnold with three hundred and fifty of his own men and a small body under Captain Lamb, who had handled the artillery during the various futile bombardments with great skill, was to attack the lower town on the side furthest from the river; while Montgomery with the remainder was to pass below the bastion attacked by Brown and defiling along the river attack the lower town from that side:

All four attacks were to be made simultaneously at the discharge of a signal rocket. At two o'clock on the morning of the 31st of December the various bodies repaired to their stations. Mistakes began to occur immediately. The rockets were discharged too soon and Livingston failed to make his attack on the gate of St. John's. Montgomery descended from the heights successfully and surprised the first of the Canadian barriers after a march along the banks of the St. Lawrence. He pressed on to a blockhouse beyond. The defenders of the latter seemed to be panic-stricken for a time, and Montgomery, thinking victory

already in his grasp, shouted: "Push on, my brave fellows. Quebec is ours." When within forty yards of the blockhouse, however, the battery it contained suddenly opened fire and Montgomery and one of his aides fell dead. The commander of the New York troops, Captain Cheeseman, received a canister shot through the body and fell dead also while trying to push on. The next ranking officer was in the rear and Colonel Campbell, Montgomery's quartermaster-general, ordered a retreat. Montgomery's column therefore abandoned the field, leaving its dead to fall into the hands of the enemy. Young Aaron Burr, who though a mere boy was an aide on Montgomery's staff, tried to carry back the body of his dead general, but was forced to abandon it or be captured himself. One resolute rush after the discharge of that artillery and the blockhouse would have been captured, Montgomery would have entered the town and by aiding Arnold probably have captured it. As it was, the retreat of Montgomery's column left the whole British force free to turn against Arnold.

Arnold's column was the forlorn hope. He had with him Morgan and Captain Lamb with one field-piece. Arnold headed the column in person (as Montgomery had his) with twenty-five men. After these came the artillery of Lamb with their single field-piece mounted on a sled. Behind the artillery came a company with scaling ladders, then

Morgan with his riflemen, and in rear of all the main body. The field-piece was carried as they knew they would have to take a battery on their route. The field-piece, however, was brought to a halt by a deep snowdrift. Nevertheless, the first battery or barrier was taken, though Arnold was wounded so severely that he had to be borne from the field. Morgan took command and pressed on. The fight at the second barrier was obstinate. Day was just dawning, and after severe fighting in which Captain Lamb was wounded by the last discharge of the enemy's cannon, the second barrier was taken. Morgan then entered the town. But the whole force of the British was now turned upon him and he had to take refuge with his men in a stone house. This they defended, firing from the windows until they heard of the death of Montgomery and the retreat of his column when Morgan was compelled to surrender.

The fragments of the little army of Americans retreated a few miles from the town and threw up hasty intrenchments, supposing that Carleton would pursue them with his victorious garrison. But the latter was content with the safety of Quebec. To his credit be it said, that though a severe and harsh man he was struck with so much admiration for the daring of the Americans that he treated them with great humanity, and buried Montgomery's body with the honour due a soldier.

Arnold, wounded and in great agony, was carried back exposed for nearly a mile from musketry fire from the walls which were not more than fifty yards distance, and took command of the remnant of the army until he could be relieved by General Wooster, who was at Montreal. He immediately put his shattered remnant of an army into such shape that it was still dangerous to the security of Quebec. He declared that he had no thought of leaving the proud town until he entered it in triumph. "I am in the way of my duty and I know no fear," he wrote.

Thus ended the storming of Quebec and it is sad to relate Arnold's expedition, for he did not enter the city in spite of his courageous words. He was rewarded, however, by being made a brigadier-general.

General Wooster did not take command of Arnold's army in person, however. He was over sixty years of age and hardly equal to the task. So Arnold with great pertinacity remained before the town all winter, blockading it with a force but half as large as the garrison. Sickness and desertions reduced this force. The Canadians who had hailed him as a deliverer were, now that he was beaten, afraid to further sympathise with him and all he effected was to cut off Quebec from some occasional supplies. In the spring, General Wooster reinforced him and took command. Arnold, having been again injured by the falling

of his horse, went back to Montreal. Then, in April, General Thomas took command. The latter determined on another assault. He planned to turn a fire-ship loose among the ships that lay off Quebec, and while the town was in the confusion that he expected would result from the ensuing conflagration he proposed to scale the walls with a force that now amounted to about two thousand men. But the fire-ship passed harmlessly by the shipping and the rest of the plan was of course abandoned. On the 6th of May, 1776, Quebec was reinforced and General Thomas was compelled to retreat. This he did, first to Point Deschambault, and then to the mouth of the Sorel River, where he was reinforced by General Thompson. On the second of June General Thomas died of the small-pox and was succeeded in command of the American forces in Canada by General Sullivan, who had arrived with still further reinforcements. The people were at last awake to the danger of being invaded in turn by the British from Canada. Throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and New York the people were in a state of consternation. They were bitter in their criticisms of the conduct of affairs in Canada and placed the blame on the head of poor General Schuyler. They accused him of not furnishing the army in Canada with sufficient supplies or reinforcements, and they were particularly angry at his lenient treatment of the Tories.

Schuyler, however, was upheld by Washington, and at the request of the latter did not resign as he wished to.

In the meantime the English were advancing from Quebec under the command of Maclean, and Sullivan sent General Thompson forward down the St. Lawrence to meet him.

General John Sullivan was a lawyer of Durham, New Hampshire. He with a small force captured Fort William and Mary at Portsmouth at the commencement of hostilities, and as I have told you was one of the eight brigadier-generals originally appointed by the second Continental Congress. He had served under Washington at Cambridge until the British evacuated Boston and was now taking his turn at commanding the army of invasion. His period of command was short and anything but brilliant, though he entered upon his work with the greatest confidence. He was totally unaware that a large British army of 1,300 men had been landed in Canada and that the force of Maclean was but the advance of it.

General Thompson pushed blindly into a British force vastly greater than his own at Three Rivers, and was completely routed. Sullivan, to his chagrin, had to retreat himself to Crown Point, being joined on the way by Arnold, who barely made his escape from Montreal with the few hundred men with whom he had been holding the city. And at Crown Point Sullivan was superseded by

General Gates. The British under Burgoyne were following, and thus the American invasion of Canada ended in a British invasion of New York, which it was fondly hoped would split the colonies in twain.

CHAPTER VI

PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEFENCE OF NEW YORK —LEE AND MOULTRIE—THE BATTLE OF FORT MOULTRIE

YOU will see, Boy, that in these early days of the Revolution, officers in the field were criticised quite as freely as they were in the Civil War, and in the war with Spain. Indeed in the first of our wars officer succeeded officer with more rapidity than in any other. This is due to the fact that some, though patriotic, were inefficient ; and also to the fact that each colony had its favourite sons, in whom it had great confidence, and whom it wanted to see promoted. To make things worse the Continental Congress was vested with limited powers, and it was not always wise in its actions. Very often it turned the military authority in a colony over to the Provincial Assembly of that colony, so that if a general happened to be acting under the authority and directions of one colony, and in pursuit or retreat passed into another, he immediately came under the power of new superiors. In addition, these men were serving with little or no pay. Were they not heroes, indeed?

I have told you of the importance of Canada and Northern New York. But the city of New York was more important still. Its harbour was full of British ships, many of them men-of-war, and the Governor (Tryon), who had been driven out by the people, was on one of these ships, and was intriguing with the Tories in the city. Moreover, the ships were a matter of constant alarm to the inhabitants. They were in deadly fear of being bombarded by the ships.

At the suggestion of John Adams, Washington finally decided to do something toward defending New York. He was doubtful of his authority, although he had been given extraordinary powers by Congress. Adams convinced him that he would not be arrogating authority. So in January, before the fall of Boston, Washington sent Charles Lee, one of the original major-generals, on to New York.

Lee, like Gates and Montgomery, had been an officer in the regular army of England. He was fiery, headstrong, wild and adventurous. His life reads more like a romance than a biography. He fought in and for more countries than America and England, and whenever there was a war in Europe he was pretty sure to be found in it. While a British officer in the French and Indian wars, he was adopted into the Mohawk tribe of Indians, who had taken a fancy to him, under the name of "Boiling Water," which seemed to them

appropriate to him. He afterwards caused Washington a great deal of trouble ; but, it is to be said to his credit, that he gave up his property in England to fight for the American cause, and ran the risk of being hung as a traitor if captured by the English. The people looked up to him, therefore, with great respect and admiration, and called him the "Palladium of American Liberty." He expected to be made commander-in-chief of the American army, but kept his chagrin to himself when Washington was made such. No doubt he thought that the future might bring him to the front in the course of time. But he was able, brave, earnest and vigorous.

Lee raised troops in Connecticut and marched toward New York. The people of the city were greatly alarmed and begged that he would not enter the town, as they feared an immediate bombardment from the ships if he did enter, and commence to fortify the place. This did not deter Lee. He marched into town, sent word to the British ships that if they bombarded the town, the first house they set on fire would be the funeral pile of one hundred of their best Tory friends, and proceeded to fortify Brooklyn and Hell Gate, and to barricade the town itself. He was in the midst of these labours when Congress appointed him to the command of the army in Canada (that unfortunate army which had, we might say, almost as many commanders as men). Before he started

for this command, however, Congress heard that the British intended to invade the Southern colonies. So they reversed their instructions and sent Lee, first to Virginia, and then to Charleston, S. C.

After the departure of Lee for the South, the command devolved for a time upon Brigadier-General Stirling (often called Lord Stirling because of his claim to a Scotch earldom, which he never succeeded in obtaining). Stirling was a distinguished scientist, and a brave and efficient officer. In many ways his judgment was not considered sound, however, and he always served in a subordinate capacity under Washington. Stirling admired and loved Washington, and it was through Stirling that the Conway cabal and Gates' intrigue, of which I will tell you later, were discovered.

When the British evacuated Boston and sailed away, Washington supposed that they would make direct for the port of New York. He therefore sent detachments under Generals Heath and Sullivan (this, you know, was before Sullivan was sent with reinforcements for the army in Canada) to New York, and called on Congress to raise three thousand more troops for the defence of New York. To Putnam he gave the command of the whole army in New York, and the latter completed the defences of the town, begun by Lee, fortified King's Bridge, and the Highlands of the Hudson.

Putnam put even a firmer hand upon the Tories in New York than Lee had, and the town was under thorough martial law.

General Howe sailed first for Halifax, but eventually turned up at New York as Washington had surmised. In the meantime, Sir Henry Clinton was making preparations to invade the South (where Lee had been sent to prepare for him), and as I have told you, the British, under General Burgoyne, were preparing to drive the Americans out of Canada, and descend through New York. So the British had three campaigns arranged for this year of 1776, and no doubt King George thought that by the end of summer he would have downed the Rebellion, and decorated every scaffold in the colonies with swinging "rebels," as the British called us. He did not succeed, but to quote the word of a patriot, writing at the time, his armies did "set the continent a racing from Boston to Carolina."

When Washington heard of the arrival of Admiral Howe's ships at New York (the admiral preceded his brother the general there), he left Boston post-haste for the former city, arriving on the 13th of April and took personal command. Knowing that the general he had so cleverly driven out of Boston would soon appear, the commander-in-chief saw that the Howes would probably make Long Island the object of their first attack, and set General Greene at work completing the forti-

fications of Brooklyn, and put him in command there. In all there were about ten thousand men available for duty on Long Island. The men were many of them sick, and the force was insufficient to meet the army of Howe. While Washington was studying the problem how best to employ this insufficient force, Congress proceeded to ask him if he could not spare troops from that army to reinforce the army in Canada. It is a matter of wonder, is it not, Boy, which was the more perplexed man in the times of the nation's greatest needs—Washington or Lincoln?

You see neither Congress nor Washington had yet learned of the large army that was being sent to Canada. Congress thought that Howe would sail back to Canada when he found Washington ready to meet him at New York, and make a campaign there. Or, that at the worst he would make a campaign against New York, and that possibly the best way to protect New York would be to make a vigorous offensive movement against Canada and draw Howe away to defend it. No one imagined that King George had soldiers to spare to make three distinct campaigns. And, as a matter of fact, King George had not. But he managed it, nevertheless.

This is how he did it. Not content with waging war against his colonies and kinsmen with the savages, he hired soldiers from the Duke of Brunswick, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel and the Hered-

itary Prince of Cassel. Nearly eighteen thousand of these he had hired just as he would have hired the use of so many animals, and the delicate-minded masters of these animals had let them out for so much pay for their use, and so much extra for every one killed.

When Washington heard the first news of this arrangement, he proceeded promptly to the Congress, which was in session at Philadelphia, and made them understand the desperate situation of affairs. They, therefore, began to enlist men for three years (the best step they had yet taken in the right direction), and made preparations to reinforce the army in New York city with fourteen thousand men, giving Washington power to call on neighbouring colonies for more if it should seem necessary. King George's peculiar ideas in raising an army, therefore, but made the Americans more determined to baffle him.

When Washington returned to New York, a plot was hatched by Governor Tryon and his Tories (the names seem to go together beautifully, do they not?) to assassinate Washington. Even some of Washington's body-guard were implicated in it. But the plot was discovered, Washington's life was saved, and the conspirators were punished, one of the body-guard being hung in a field near the Bowery Lane in the presence of twenty thousand spectators.

On the 29th of June, 1776, General Howe ar-

rived before New York with his army. Five days later the colonies formally declared their independence with general rejoicing. This strengthened Washington's hand. He was also rejoiced at this time to obtain the services of his old Virginia friend and veteran soldier Hugh Mercer, just appointed brigadier-general, whom he promptly put in command of some Pennsylvania troops who were sent on to New Jersey to help Brigadier-General Livingston of that colony, defend it. Mercer had fought with Washington at Fort Duquesne, but Livingston was without military experience. He was a man of education and talent, however, and had great influence with his people. Washington had re-acquired the services of Reed as adjutant-general when Gates obtained a commission as major-general; and just at this same time General Greene observed a young artillery officer who so impressed him by his ability that he took him to Washington. This was Alexander Hamilton. Washington soon found use for him. Volunteers from the country began to flock into the city, and the spirit of the whole people was greatly improved. Moreover the arrival of the British before New York had precipitated matters. Tories and patriots (or Whigs, as they were often called) now took sides openly.

On the 12th of July, two of the enemy's ships passed up the Hudson, exchanging fire with the

batteries. This was the first real fighting the people of New York had seen, and they were thrown into great alarm. Washington, himself, was alarmed also, for he feared that the forts erected on the Hudson would be unable to cope with them, being in an unfinished condition. To add to his perplexity there was a conflict of authority between Generals Schuyler and Gates, and General Sullivan, angered that Gates had been promoted over him, left the army gathered by the two former at Ticonderoga on leave of absence, hastened to Congress and offered his resignation. He was prevailed upon to recall it and joined Washington at New York. Congress, also, eventually made the peculiar decision between Schuyler and Gates that the former was to command the army while it was in New York, and the latter while it was in Canada. This practically put Schuyler in command. Then came a piece of news to cheer Washington. Sir Henry Clinton had made an attack on Charlestown and had been repulsed.

This introduces another Hero of the Revolution. Before Lee arrived at Charlestown to take charge of its defence from the expected attack by Clinton, Colonel William Moultrie had been erecting batteries for the defence of that port. One of these was erected at Haddrell's Point; the other, a complete fort, on Sullivan's Island.

William Moultrie was born in the city which

he was now defending. He and Francis Marion, who was now a captain under him, had fought together against the Indians. On the day that the battle of Bunker Hill was fought Moultrie was made a colonel and Marion a captain by the Provincial Congress of South Carolina. The fort he erected on Sullivan's Island, and which was named after him, he erected of palmetto logs and sand. To defend it Moultrie had but four hundred and thirty-five men and thirty-one cannon. When Lee arrived to take command he called the fort a "slaughter-pen" and proposed to abandon it. Governor Rutledge, however, would not permit the fort to be abandoned. Supposing that the main fight would be at Haddrell Point, Lee remained there and Moultrie fought the battle, although Lee crossed to the other fort in an open boat during the engagement and pointed some of the guns.

THE BATTLE OF FORT MOULTRIE.

Early in June, Clinton appeared before Charleston with a fleet of fifty vessels. He landed about two thousand troops on another island, and singularly enough, on another "Long Island" and prepared for the attack. On the 28th all was ready and the English fleet sailed in to reduce Fort Moultrie, preparatory to the advance by land. There were nine ships of war with the fleet and they were permitted to come within point-

blank of the fort before the first gun was fired. The defenders knew little of gunnery and they probably did not care to engage the ships at a range that would require an elevation of the guns. As it was they had been told by every one who was supposed to know that the fort would be reduced by the ships in half an hour. When Moultrie was asked what he would do then, he replied promptly, "We will lie behind the ruins and prevent the enemy from landing."

The ships did not reply to the first volley, but advanced until they were abreast of the fort, when they clewed up their sails, dropped their anchors and started in to fight with a terrible broadside. Over a hundred cannon opened on the fort at once. Lee watched from Haddrell's Point. When the smoke lifted from that first awful broadside from the ships he expected to see the fort in ruins. He was mistaken. The palmetto logs and the sand made an embankment that was impenetrable. And to his surprise there were no splinters from the palmetto logs. They simply closed silently over the balls, though the battlements shook from the broadsides. But the vessels shook also. The Americans were using their cannon as well as though they were their accustomed rifles. The British had a bomb vessel with them. But the bombs it threw sunk silently into a morass in the centre of the fort, and it soon went out of action riddled through and through. Then Moul-

trie turned every gun on the largest of the English vessels—fifty-gun ships. The fire he poured in on these was terrible and he drove every man from their upper decks, which were slippery with blood. On one boat, the *Experiment*, nearly a hundred men were either killed or wounded in the first hour of the action. The *Commodore* fared no better.

A cannon ball knocked a coat from the top of the parapet. The men laughed as it sailed away, and Moultrie took out his pipe and began to smoke in quiet joy. In the distance Charleston, like Boston at the battle of Bunker Hill, was black with spectators. Now Lee, more and more astonished at the ability of the "slaughter-pen," as he had called it, to hold out, came over in a boat. He was equally astonished at the coolness of Moultrie and his men. The idea of a few men in such a rude structure with but thirty-five cannon holding out against a fleet that carried two hundred and sixty-six guns all told seemed almost impossible to him. But Lee was an admirer of brave men, and he did not now come to take from Moultrie the credit of defending the fort. On the contrary he commended him and returned to his own post to send over more powder. He was equally enthusiastic in his praises of Moultrie and his men in his report to Washington later.

During the fight the flag-staff on the fort was shot away, and both the people of Charleston and

the British on ship and on shore supposed (with very different emotions) that the fort had surrendered. But the heroic Sergeant Jasper, whose name has become immortal for the act, jumped on the parapet and walked under fire over to where it had fallen, the whole length of the fort away, picked it up, bound it to a sponge staff and planted it on the bastion at the corner.

When the powder gave out the British thought the defenders were weakening. But the first terrible volley after a new supply arrived showed them their error. All day long the fight kept up. For twelve hours ships and fort struggled for the mastery. At length, after nine o'clock at night, the fleet drew away completely cut up. One boat, the *Acteon*, had run aground, and to prevent her from falling into the hands of the Americans the British set her on fire. When the fire reached her magazine she blew up with an explosion that was heard for miles. This engagement saved South Carolina from danger. Moultrie was made a brigadier-general, and sent to the defence of Savannah, which was threatened by the enemy. Lee, after remaining some time in command at Charleston, was ordered to Philadelphia, and later went to the assistance of Washington in New York.

CHAPTER VII.

THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND.

THE British force before New York, and now holding Staten Island, was no less than thirty-five thousand men. Howe had been reinforced by the troops under Sir Henry Clinton, who had been driven away from Charlestown, and by further reinforcements, from England.

Washington knew, as the summer advanced, that the British were prepared for an attack on Long Island, and must have often wondered why they did not make it sooner. In the meantime, Putnam tried to capture the two boats that had sailed up the Hudson, by placing obstructions in the river below them under the guns of batteries on either shore. He then tried to set them on fire as they rode at anchor, by fire ships, which were being constructed in New York by Ephraim Anderson, adjutant of a New Jersey regiment, who had made the same sort of an attempt to set fire to the ships during the siege of Quebec. Indeed, it was Anderson's plan to attempt the destruction of the whole English fleet in this manner, though it was never carried out.

Putnam's fire-ships failed to set fire to the English men-of-war, but they became alarmed when the attempt was made, for their safety, and concluded to drop down the river. Putnam was confident that they were as good as captured. He thought that his obstruction would hold them, and his batteries smash them into surrender. He was disappointed. The men-of-war were guided through the only opening in the obstruction by some never discovered traitor, and calmly sailed away to join the fleet anchored off Staten Island.

As August drew on, it was apparent that the British were making ready for an attack on New York, and the city was thrown into a state of feverish excitement. Many of Washington's advisers now urged him to abandon the city. They feared that he would be cooped up in it much as he had cooped the British up in Boston, and be compelled to surrender. The great Commander-in-Chief, however, was unwilling to leave New York without making the best effort he could to defend it. He had but about seventeen thousand men to oppose to the thirty-five thousand of the enemy, but he expected to fight with an inferior force throughout the war, and he might as well do it now as at any other time.

On the night of the 21st of August, 1776, the British began to cross to Long Island, and by morning twenty thousand of the enemy had landed, or were preparing to land, at various

points. The American position stretched from Wallabout Bay to Gowanus Cove. To protect its rear, there was a battery at Red Hook and a fort on Governor's Island. The line of defences erected by General Greene consisted of intrenchments and redoubts. Two and a half miles in front was a densely wooded range of hills, which General Greene had intended to fortify. Greene, however, had fallen sick with a fever, and the command of the forces in Brooklyn had fallen on General Sullivan. Several thousand of the enemy landed at Gravesend and compelled Colonel Hand, who was stationed there to retreat to the wooded hills. Against these lines marched Sir Henry Clinton, the Earls of Cornwallis and Percy, and Generals Grant and Erskine, with nine thousand men and forty pieces of artillery. Lord Cornwallis took up a position at Flatbush with the English reserve, while the rest of the army stretched across Long Island from the Narrows to the village of Flatland. There were three passes through the wooded hills, and Cornwallis advanced to take the central one. Here he found Hand, and being ordered not to attack, camped for the night at the village of Flatbush. The intention of the British was to force the Brooklyn lines and take Brooklyn Heights. The prospects of a battle again alarmed the inhabitants of the city, and they began pouring from it. They feared, too, for some unexplainable reason, that Washington, if forced

to retreat, intended to set fire to New York. This, of course, he had no intention of doing.

On the 24th, Washington crossed to Brooklyn to take a survey of the situation, but he was handicapped by the condition of General Greene, who was too ill to even explain his plans. Colonel Hand had thrown up a redoubt on the central road, while the road from Flatbush to Bedford was guarded by Colonels Williams and Miles. The English were now stretched along in front of these hills. There had been continual skirmishing and fighting between the two armies, but as yet no serious encounter. Washington now saw that General Sullivan was unequal to the command, being so new an arrival at the scene of action, and gave it to General Putnam. In the meantime, the British were continually augmenting their force. Washington on returning to New York sent over still further reinforcements.

The British plan of attack was to turn the left flank of the American army, and this Clinton did on the night of the 26th. He expected to be opposed, but to his surprise he was not. Attacks were made in the early morning on the American right and centre to aid him, and a British ship cannonaded the battery at Red Hook.

Washington was for a time perplexed as to whether New York was also to be attacked, or merely the lines on Long Island. At length, he concluded that the fighting was to be done only

on Long Island, and was ferried over in time to see the catastrophe resulting from the enemy's well laid plans. Sullivan, hearing the thundering of Clinton's cannon from Colonel Hand's redoubt near Flatbush, surmised the truth that he had been flanked on the left. He immediately ordered a retreat, but it was too late. The British were well around by this time, and he was driven back. As the British were now advancing all along the line it was but a short time before the Americans on the heights were surrounded. They fought with fury, and were attacked with equal fury, the Hessians making a name for themselves as butchers, which is not yet forgotten by Americans. A few of the American army fought its way through to the lines, but the majority, including Sullivan himself, were captured.

All this could be seen by Washington. He saw his best troops cut down and captured, and knew he had nothing but militia left to man the works around Brooklyn. But even worse was to follow. General Stirling, who commanded the right of the American line on the hills, had been deceived by the forbearance of the British in not advancing against him, though they continued to engage with him. Supposing himself master of the field, therefore, and ignorant of the fate of the left, he remained in place until the British reserve under Cornwallis got in his rear. Then he understood the desperate situation he was caught in.

Washington supposed that he would surrender. Instead, he divided his force. He ordered half to retreat, and with the other half boldly attacked Cornwallis. He and his little body of men fought desperately, but eventually were forced to surrender. In the meantime, Washington, looking on, wrung his hands in agony at the carnage.

The British forces now concentrated within a few hundred yards of the American redoubts. They could have carried them by assault, probably, but the British commander, Howe, thought he could attain his object and lose fewer men by regular approaches. Consequently, he withdrew out of the reach of the American musketry fire and encamped for the night.

The Americans lost two thousand men in killed, wounded and prisoners, out of about five thousand actually in the engagement. The British lost less than four hundred.

The next day (the 28th) the British began planting cannon and commenced to entrench. Rain, however, drove the British into their tents, while reinforcements arrived in small numbers in the American camp. The 29th was noticeable for a dense fog. Adjutant-General Reed and some other officers rode out, however, and discovered that the English ships were in a state of bustle and preparation. This boded evil. The officers galloped back, and Reed communicated the fact to Washington. To him, as to them, a movement

of the ships could mean but one thing—an attempt to cut him off from New York, and the possible, if not very probable, capture of his whole army. Washington at once called a council of war, and it was decided to retreat to New York while there was yet opportunity. But even the retreat was a dangerous piece of business. The sentries of the enemy were within a quarter of a mile of the American sentries, with the boats at hand, the crossing of so large a body of men over a strait three-quarters of a mile wide and swept by strong currents, must of necessity be slow; and, should the enemy learn of it, disastrous. Washington himself arranged the plans. Secrecy and celerity were required. The troops were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to advance (which caused them a feeling of consternation, as their guns were rendered almost useless by the incessant rains); and so quickly did Colonel Hughes, the acting quartermaster-general, obey his orders, that all the water craft within fifteen miles was assembled at the docks by eight o'clock in the evening, though the orders were issued only at noon. General Mifflin, with the Pennsylvania troops, was to remain on guard at the trenches with sentries posted quite as usual, until the main body had embarked, when he was to march quickly to the docks and cross himself.

Late in the evening the movement began. The central regiments moving to the rear as silently as

possible, and the flanks closing in as they went, and taking their places.

Washington stationed himself at the ferry, superintending everything. All went well, save that a cannon was discharged while it was being spiked, and one of Washington's aides, by mistake, gave the order to Mifflin to withdraw before the proper time. The gun, however, failed to arouse the British camp, and Mifflin, upon being informed of his mistake by the astonished and angry Washington, marched his men back to their posts. A Tory woman, whose husband had been put under guard by the Americans, sent a negro servant to inform the British of the movement in a spirit of revenge. He passed the American pickets successfully; but, fortunately, when approaching the enemy's lines, fell into the hands of some Hessian guards who could not understand English, and he was locked up for the night. On such a trifling thing as that hung the fate of the American army.

General Howe did not make any immediate preparations to attack New York, although he must have known the precarious situation Washington's army was in. The fact of the matter was, Howe was ambitious to bring the war to a close and reunite the colonies to the mother country. He had no authority from parliament to make terms with the Americans, but supposed that if he could come to an agreement with them it would

be ratified by his own government. He could make no terms with them, he knew, except such as meant a reunion with England. But he supposed the Americans thoroughly whipped by this time, and as thoroughly cowed. New York and Washington's army he considered his whenever he might wish to take it.

Under these circumstances he sent General Sullivan under parole with an overture to Congress, although he would not recognise the authority of Congress, or, indeed, the legal existence of such a body. This put Congress in a dilemma. They wanted to treat with Howe, because, for all they knew, the negotiations might lead to independence and peace. But they also insisted on their right to represent the American people. In this dilemma they appointed a committee of three, consisting of John Adams, Edward Rutledge and Benjamin Franklin, to confer with Howe. It was arranged that Howe should consider this committee merely a small body of private gentlemen of influence in the rebellious colonies, while Congress considered them, as they were, a committee. The committee met General Howe on Staten Island, opposite Amboy, where Mercer was stationed with a small body of Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops, called by Washington a "flying camp" for the protection of New Jersey from marauders. The committee soon discovered that Howe had no authority to treat with them

along any lines which they were willing to consider, and the conference soon broke up without accomplishing anything. General Howe expressed regret, when they departed, that he "would be obliged to distress those for whom he had so much regard." Franklin assured him that the Americans would endeavor to lessen his pain by "taking good care of themselves."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE RETREAT FROM NEW YORK—ARRIVAL OF LEE—THE BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS—DEFENCES OF THE HIGHLANDS OF THE HUDSON—PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEFENCE OF NEW JERSEY

IN New York Washington was in a state of perplexity. He fully realised the importance of holding New York if possible and the danger that lay in the attempt. The island peninsula of Manhattan is a particularly difficult one to defend, and a more difficult place to retreat from. Surrounded by water which was covered on three sides with the ships of the enemy, there was but one point where he might withdraw to the mainland. This was King's Bridge at the northern part of the island. As yet the British had made no move up the Harlem River, but they soon appeared at Hell Gate.

In the meantime the enlistments of many of his troops were running out and they were returning to their homes. Worse still, a good part of the militia, disgusted, dejected and thoroughly frightened, marched off to their homes. Washington

did not attempt to dissuade them. He knew it would be almost useless, and he had no use for troops in such a frame of mind any way. Thus his army began to disintegrate, until, as we shall see, by winter, he had but a handful left.

After a council of war in which the generals disagreed, it was finally concluded to leave Putnam with five thousand troops to the city itself to man the redoubts and batteries. Heath with nine thousand was to occupy the upper part of the island, to oppose any attempt of the enemy to land, while Greene was to occupy the central portion along Turtle Bay and Kip's Bay. Washington located his headquarters some distance from the city. Foreseeing the end, however, Washington began the removal of supplies from the city and island.

On the 14th of September the British landed several thousand troops on the islands at the mouth of the Harlem River. The next day they attacked the militia at Turtle Bay and Kip's Bay. The latter fled at the first approach of the red-coats. Their panic and flight was joined in by two brigades Putnam had sent to aid them. While they were fleeing and their officers trying in vain to rally them, Washington appeared among them. He was so indignant that he lost all self-control, threw his hat on the ground in rage and snapped his pistols at the flying men. Indeed, he would have been captured by the

enemy then and there had not an aide grasped the bridle of his horse and led him away. He soon regained command of himself, however, and sent word in haste to Putnam to withdraw from the city to Harlem Heights, which he saw was the objective point of the British.

Putnam promptly obeyed, making a forced march along the road nearest the Hudson. The day was terribly hot, the roads dusty and his army impeded by hosts of women and children who fled with it. Many men fell on the road from exhaustion and some died, but Putnam barely made good his escape. The very heat that caused his column so much trouble, tempted the British to halt at the house of a Quaker, named Murray, on Murray Hill, for refreshments. Murray was a patriot, and his wife, knowing that Putnam's army was making its way but a mile distant, saw an opportunity to aid him. She placed cake and wine before the British officers in such abundance that they gladly lingered until it was too late. As it was, however, they crossed the island in time to capture some three hundred men of Putnam's army and kill about fifteen in a short encounter.

Washington now made a fortified camp on the upper neck of Manhattan Island. Here it is but a mile in width and separated from the mainland by the Harlem River. It is high and rocky and easily defended, but not an easy place to escape

from if an army is surrounded there. You have often seen it, Boy, if you have gone out to a baseball game on the Elevated Road in New York. To-day it is built almost solidly with the dwellings of the citizens of New York. Fort Washington is on one of these heights, and overlooking the Hudson was then one of Washington's defences for the Hudson River. Two miles north of Fort Washington is King's Bridge, which was Washington's road for retreat to the mainland. A mile and a half south of the fort, Washington stretched two lines of defences from the Harlem to the Hudson. There were also two advanced posts, one on the left, commanded by General Spencer, and the other at McGowan's Pass, commanded by General Putnam. Washington now made his headquarters at the country-seat of a Tory by the name of Roger Morris who, singularly enough, had been Washington's successful rival for the hand of a young lady, Miss Mary Philipse. The owners were of course away, but a portrait of the young lady which is still in existence is supposed to have been in the house, and we may wonder if Washington ever turned from the anxieties of war and the then failing fortunes of the American cause to look at it and think of the days of his early love.

There was but one skirmish of any importance while Washington occupied this place. An ad-

vanced post was taken and the defenders driven in, after a brave resistance, by Lieutenant-colonel Knowlton, who had distinguished himself at Bunker Hill. Washington and his adjutant-general, Reed, rode out to reconnoitre. The enemy perceiving them sounded their bugles as the English do after a fox chase. This insult stung Washington to the quick and he determined to take what appeared to him to be but a small advance of the enemy prisoners. So he sent a Virginia regiment under command of Major Leitch to assist Knowlton. These two tried to get in rear of the enemy, but the latter falling back they came upon his flanks. The enemy were reinforced, so were Knowlton and Leitch, and a hot skirmish ensued. The enemy were driven back and pursued some distance. But the main body of the British were not far away and Washington, not wishing to bring on a general engagement, recalled the troops while they were flushed with the novel pleasure of chasing the enemy. Unfortunately, Knowlton was killed and Leitch mortally wounded in the fight.

A tremendous fire raged in New York on the 20th, which was finally extinguished by the soldiers of Howe's army. Howe claimed that the fire was set at Washington's orders, which was false. Nevertheless Howe's soldiers promptly killed a number of patriots whom they found in the vicinity of the fire, on the suspicion that they were the incendiaries.

An exchange of prisoners was now effected. By this the Americans regained General Stirling, who was captured at Long Island, and Captain Morgan, who was captured at Quebec. The latter was promoted and given command of a rifle regiment which he was authorised to raise. This regiment became the celebrated body known as "Morgan's Riflemen."

It was now October of 1776. To Washington's surprise Howe made no offensive movement save to send three ships of war up the Hudson to Dobb's Ferry. These ships broke through Putnam's barriers as easily as they would have snapped a clothes-line. They worried Washington and caused great excitement among the people. Other and better barriers were hastily constructed to prevent them from being reinforced by other ships, and also to prevent them from returning down the river.

These ships made more trouble for Washington than, perhaps, Howe ever dreamed they would. The inhabitants of the country threatened by them called loudly for protection. All of Washington's advisers, save those interested in the lower part of the state, wanted him to retreat immediately, not only to protect the country, but to save his army. The others, especially Clinton, who was deeply interested in the fate of the country Washington was then defending, wanted him to stay where he was and fight.

At this time, while Washington was sorely perplexed, General Lee arrived in camp from Philadelphia. He was fresh from the victory at Fort Moultrie, and was everywhere hailed as a deliverer. Even Washington was overjoyed at his arrival, and having a great respect for his military attainments, treated his views with unusual consideration. In fact he made the mistake, at once, of merely suggesting orders to Lee, rather than absolutely giving them. We shall see how Lee took advantage of this fact. Washington immediately gave him command of the wing of the army above King's Bridge. At a council of war, too, held at King's Bridge, Lee's opinion finally confirmed Washington in his belief that he must retreat altogether from Manhattan Island, much to the disgust of General George Clinton, who was heart and soul for fighting it out then and there. Clinton was totally unable to perceive the meaning of the strategy to which Washington was compelled to resort from time to time, and was disgusted at the policy of retreating. He was for saving New York. Washington would have retreated, in case of necessity, to the Alleghany Mountains themselves. Washington, at the express orders of Congress, left a strong garrison in Fort Washington, however, with orders that it should be held as long as possible.

Washington now moved his army in the direction of White Plains, as the British were already

well advanced toward his rear and left flank. Before moving, however, he divided his army into four divisions, and assigned Generals Lee, Heath, Sullivan and Lincoln to command them. General Sullivan had recently been exchanged for General Prescott. General Lincoln was a Massachusetts man, who had been lately appointed major-general, and who had been, until recently, in command of the few troops left at Boston. General Greene was now in command of Fort Lee (the name of which had been recently changed from Fort Constitution in honour of Lee) on the Hudson, opposite Fort Washington, and Colonel Magaw was in command at Fort Washington.

THE BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS

It was the 23d of October, when Washington stationed himself in a camp at White Plains and fortified it. Howe (who was now General Sir William Howe, having been recently made a knight companion of the Bath for his success on Long Island) waited for a few days for supplies and reinforcements, and then pushed along the mainland towards New Rochelle, constantly harassed by Colonel Glover with three regiments of Massachusetts infantry. Howe reached New Rochelle on the 21st. Here he was reinforced by some Hessians and two regiments of light dragoons. He had been trying continually to get in

rear of Washington's army by continual flank movements on Washington's left. As a result, when the two armies met at White Plains, Washington was faced east to meet him. His right rested on a curve of the Bronx River, his left on a lake in the hills. His whole line was on high ground. The battle occurred on the 28th of October. The position Washington had taken was but a temporary one for defence while he was collecting his stores. Though well chosen, it was commanded by several hills, which Lee wanted held. The only one which Washington had time to occupy, however, was Chatterton's Hill, on the right of his right flank, and separated from it by the Bronx and a marsh. To it he sent about two thousand men under General McDougall.

The British army advanced in two columns, accompanied by some of the recently landed cavalry of the British. The latter looked formidable indeed to the militia, which as yet had fought against artillery and infantry only. As Washington expected, the British concluded to take Chatterton's Hill before making a front attack upon him. For this purpose they sent Colonel Rahl with a brigade of Hessians to cross the Bronx further down the stream and attack the hill on one side, while a column under General Leslie attacked it from the other. They preceded the attack by a furious cannonade upon the hill, under cover of which Leslie hastily constructed a bridge across the

Bronx. While constructing the bridge they were severely handled by two pieces of artillery stationed on the hill and commanded most ably by Alexander Hamilton, now a captain of artillery.

When the bridge was finished Leslie's command rushed over it and charged up the hill. Hamilton's field-pieces fired three volleys at them as they advanced, every ball ploughing through the column, so well were the pieces served. In the meantime Smallwood's Marylanders fired steady volleys at them with small arms.

Colonel Rahl charged up the south side of the hill on McDougall's right flank. His men gave way, but he rallied them partially behind a stone fence. Here they stood until the British cavalry charged upon them, when they fired one volley and fled in absolute confusion. The left of the line on the hill fought more steadily and twice repulsed the British columns. Eventually, however, they were forced down the hill, and retired sullenly. At the foot of the hill on the north side, at the bridge by which they had gained the hill, they were met by General Putnam with a body of troops to reinforce them. His arrival was too late, however, and they retired into the camp. The loss of both armies was about equal.

The British now commenced to fortify Chatterton's Hill. In the meantime they extended their right wing around Washington's left until their army formed a semicircle. But they did not

make another attack, as the day was well advanced. Washington took advantage of the delay to send back his sick and wounded and as much of his provisions as possible to the rear. At night the two armies camped within cannon-shot of each other's camp-fires. During the night Washington threw back his right wing to a better position, and constructed further intrenchments and redoubts. These further defences appeared to be more formidable than they really were, as they were made by pulling up cornstalks with the ends to which the earth adhered turned towards the enemy, and covered with earth on top. These defences were thrown up with ease and in so short a time that they could be built to look like great solidly constructed works. On the 29th, therefore, when Howe saw them, he concluded to postpone his attack and send for reinforcements. In the meantime he, too, threw up intrenchments. Washington saw that if he remained in his present position he would eventually be outflanked by Howe, so, on the night of the 31st of October, he retreated to the rocky hills near Northcastle, some miles in rear. Here he again set to work to fortify his position, but Howe realised that he could not dislodge him from such a strong position as he now held, and on the night of the 4th of November he began a retrograde movement in the direction of Dobb's Ferry.

For some time after Howe retired Washington

was in great perplexity as to what the enemy intended to do next. He did not suppose Howe would take his whole army to attack Fort Washington, yet that seemed to be the only other point he could strike. Learning that Howe had collected a number of boats on the river, he concluded that the latter contemplated a foray through New Jersey. Howe settled the question by investing Fort Washington.

The fort was now garrisoned by more men than it would hold, and as more British ships had ascended the river past it and Fort Lee, and the enemy seemed to be able to get by whenever it so pleased them, Washington could not see what use it would be to expose the force at Fort Washington to capture. He suggested to Greene that the garrison retire. Greene, however, was firmly convinced of the necessity for holding Fort Washington. He claimed that the forts had done great damage to the British ships that had passed, and that the investment of the fort would keep at least twice the number of the garrison of the enemy's force busy and away from the main army. Moreover Colonel Magaw, in command of the fort, was confident he could hold it against any and all comers, until the end of December at least. Both he and Greene insisted also that Magaw could retreat from it at will, and take off his stores with him. In the end Washington left matters in the discretion of Greene, in whom he had most im-

plicit confidence. Lee was at this time exceedingly jealous of Greene's influence with Washington, and advised the abandonment of the fort. Lee was right and Greene wrong, and I will tell you later of all that arose from this jealousy of Lee's.

Washington now made preparations to distribute his army so that it could defend the Jerseys as well as New York. He detached all the troops belonging to the states west of the Hudson to the Jerseys under the command of Putnam. Heath and Clinton with the New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut troops were to defend the Highlands of the Hudson. The remaining troops were to remain at Northcastle under the command of General Lee. Again Washington refrained from giving Lee positive orders, but left matters largely in his discretion, merely making certain recommendations. Among these recommendations was that of retreating to the passes of the Highlands should he be threatened with attack, for Washington feared that the British preparations for an invasion of the Jerseys was but a feint to get him to weaken his army at Northcastle.

Washington now joined Heath and made a tour of inspection of the forts along the river in the Highlands of the Hudson. On the 12th of November, Washington crossed the Hudson below Stony Point, where the remainder of the army destined for the defence of the Jerseys was com-

mening its march. He did not proceed with them but went on to Fort Lee, as he was anxious about the condition of affairs at Fort Washington, and still more convinced that it would be well to abandon the fort. His departure left Lee and Heath with separate commands and separate instructions, though Lee was the superior in rank. Heath, though brought up on a farm, had a passion for military pursuits and had studied every treatise on the art of war in the English language. He considered himself well acquainted with the theory of war from the duties of a private soldier up. He was a man of peculiar character, scrupulous in obeying the letter of his instructions, but devoid of self-reliance and utterly opposed to any assumption of authority whatever.

Washington remained some days at Fort Lee discussing with Greene the advisability of evacuating Fort Washington. Indeed, he was disappointed that Greene had not already concluded to do so. But Greene was still of the opinion that the fort should be held, and Magaw still confident that he could hold it. Magaw mistakenly assumed that the British could not cross the Harlem, and that, therefore, he could retire at any time that he wished.

Washington was still of the opinion that Howe meant something more by his inaction than the reduction of this fort, but the latter soon put all doubts on the subject at rest. On the night of

the 14th he had thirty flat-bottomed boats sent up the Hudson past the fort, thence through Spuyten Duyvil Creek into the Harlem River, and thus supplied himself with means to cross the Harlem, and attack an unprotected part of the fort. Howe now summoned the fort to surrender, threatening to give no quarter if he was compelled to take it by storm. Washington was on a short visit of inspection at Hackensack. Greene sent for Washington hurriedly, and threw reinforcements into an already overcrowded fort. Putnam was with him, and even he thought the fort capable of making a good defence.

CHAPTER IX

THE CAPTURE OF FORT WASHINGTON—WASHINGTON'S BRILLIANT RETREAT THROUGH THE JERSEYS—THE SCHEMES AND CAPTURE OF LEE—THE STORMING OF FORT WASHINGTON

EARLY on the morning of the 16th of November, 1776, Colonel Magaw made his dispositions to repel attack. He had about three thousand men. The fort was built to accommodate but about one thousand. You must understand, Boy, that more could have been sheltered within the fort temporarily, but only that number could fight to advantage in it. As a matter of fact, a fort is constructed on mathematical principles, by which the amount of ground enclosed by the parapets will just about give comfortable living-room for the precise number of men needed to defend it. More can seek a refuge in it for a short time, but are useless incumbrances.

So Magaw posted Colonel Cadwalader with another third in the outer lines, about two miles and a-half south of the fort. Colonel Rawlings, a celebrated Marylander, with a battery of three guns, was posted on a precipitous hill north of the

fort. Colonel Baxter, with the remainder, a bare regiment, was posted on the wooded heights bordering the Harlem River.

Against the fort Sir William Howe planned four simultaneous attacks. Knyphausen, the Hessian commander, was to advance in two columns on the north. General Mathew was to cross the Harlem in flat boats and land on the right of the fort. Colonel Stirling was to attack the extreme left of the intrenchments. Lord Percy was to attack the right flank of the American intrenchments facing New York. So two attacks were planned against the fort proper, and two against the line of works facing the city.

About noon the attack began with a fierce cannonading. Colonel Rahl led one division of Knyphausen's command, and the latter led the other in person. We shall have to remember Colonel Rahl, for he was destined to defeat and death, but a few weeks later, while celebrating Christmas. He succeeded in his difficult attack on the fort, however, while Knyphausen was badly handled by Rawlings. General Mathew was severely handled by Baxter, too. But he succeeded in crossing the river and driving Baxter's men in after the gallant American had been killed by a British officer. This left Mathew free to turn against Cadwalader, who was well to the south, to cut him off from the fort.

Cadwalader, however, did the greatest fighting

of the day. He manfully held his ground against Percy, until he heard of Stirling's attack on his left and rear. He even defended himself against Stirling also for some time, but was finally compelled to leave his intrenchments and make for the fort. And he had to fight desperately to get to the fort, too, for he was all but surrounded.

In the same way Rawlings was eventually attacked by Rahl, while he was easily holding Knyphausen. The combined columns of Hessians drove him into the fort, and now a second demand was made to the garrison to surrender, with the usual threat of no quarter if the British and Hessians were obliged to take it by storm. And that the threat was meant was plainly evident; as the Hessians had been giving no quarter in their previous attacks.

From the opposite side of the Hudson, Washington had been watching the engagement. He was delighted with Cadwalader's great fighting, but dismayed when he saw the latter give way. When he saw the Hessians in Lord Percy's command bayoneting such of Cadwalader's men as could not escape into the fort, though they fell on their knees and prayed for quarter and mercy, Washington wept like a child.

When he saw the flag go into the fort a second time he knew, of course, that it was another demand for a surrender. So he sent a message across to Magaw, telling the latter that if he could

hold out until evening, he would try to bring the garrison off across the river during the night. This message was carried to Magaw by a very brave man, Captain Gooch, who crossed the Hudson in a boat, and returning, had to dodge the Hessians, who were now surrounding the place, narrowly escaping death at the hands of their bayonets. The message that Captain Gooch brought from Magaw told Washington that all was over ; and soon after the great commander-in-chief suffered the humiliation of seeing the American flag hauled down from the fort and the English flag run up in its place.

So Lee was right and Greene was wrong—the Fort Washington and three thousand men were lost, the Hudson was practically opened to the British up to the Highlands, and the northern part of the state was threatened by Howe and his whole army.

Washington immediately wrote to Lee. He really wanted to have Lee leave his encampment at Northcastle and fortify himself in the Highlands, thus adding to their protection and putting his own army in a place of safety. But he did not actually order Lee to make the move, and Lee did not do so. In his reply he made a slurring illusion to Greene as a man of inferior judgment. But his jealousy of Greene was soon to disappear in a greater one. Lee soon began to plot against Washington himself, who was now

blamed for trying to hold the fort. We know, however, that Washington held it at the urgent request of Congress and by the advice of a council of war of his officers, against his own better judgment.

Short enlistments immediately began to have their effect in the reduction of the army on the west of the Hudson. In a very short time Washington had but about two thousand men under his own command, and but about the same number on the east of the Hudson. This was all that was left of the army of nearly twenty thousand that he had at the beginning of the campaign. This was one of Washington's gloomy periods. But he met it with the wonderful fortitude of a truly great man. In fact, he had expected it, and had fought with all his might against the silly plan of short enlistments. He foresaw that the war would be a long one. He wanted regular troops, enlisted for a period of at least three years.

By the fall of Fort Washington, Fort Lee was rendered useless, and Washington ordered it abandoned. The garrison narrowly escaped capture by the English, who crossed the river six miles north of the fort. It was a race, in fact, to the bridge over the Hackensack River, and the Americans lost quantities of cannon and stores. They even left their tents standing and their camp kettles over the fires, such was their hurry. All this made Washington more anxious to have Lee turn

his face to the west. He even wrote Lee to cross to the west side of the Hudson. But Lee now had an opportunity for his own advantage; and he had no intention of helping Washington out of the difficulties that confronted him.

Now occurred one of the most extraordinary incidents of the war—and one of the most extraordinary incidents of Washington's whole life. Colonel Reed, Washington's adjutant-general and bosom friend, lost confidence in him and looked to Lee to save the army and the country. He even went so far as to write a letter to Lee criticising Washington for lack of decision, and telling Lee that his presence alone could restore confidence.

That was enough to start the ambitious Lee. If Washington lost the confidence of the people he, Lee, would become commander-in-chief, and after that? Well, who knows but in his camp at Northcastle he began to dream of a new personage in the world's history, King Charles I., of America? He began writing letters, not only to Reed, but to his friends, among them Gates; and in all "an indecisive mind" was the key-note. That unfortunate word of Reed's came near to causing great trouble for America. But just as there is a God of Battles, so there is a God of Human Events; and the eventful sufferers from the foolish word that sprang from Reed's discouraged mind were none other than Reed and Lee themselves.



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Washington now feared being caught between the Hackensack and Passaic rivers and retreated to the vicinity of Newark. The ships of the enemy gave them the opportunity to use rivers to throw a force in his rear. He was already confronted by more than double his command in front. In spite of himself, he had to play fox to the English hounds. He wore the lion's skin by right, but he was not lacking in ability to piece it out with the fox's should the necessity arise.

He relied upon Lee to reinforce him. Lee delayed purposely, at the same time giving Washington the idea that he was moving. On the 24th of November, Reed being absent from the army, Washington opened (as he had a perfect right to do) an official communication from Lee to Reed. It proved to be a personal letter to Reed. To Washington's surprise and dismay, Lee was still in his camp at Northcastle. All he had done was to order General Heath (over whom he had no authority) to cross the Hudson. Washington wrote an answer telling Lee plainly that it was his force that was wanted. Then followed a daily correspondence, during which Washington retreated still further, to Brunswick. Here Washington opened another letter from Lee to Reed. It proved to be a personal letter, and it told Washington the true state of affairs between Reed and Lee. An ordinary man would have given up in despair under such difficulties, and learning of the per-

sonal treason of his supposedly best friend. But Washington did nothing of the kind. He wrote a cold letter to Reed, enclosing the opened letter. It broke the friendship of the two men, though Reed begged for forgiveness. Indeed, in after years Washington did forgive him, but it is doubtful if they were ever again such bosom friends as they had been.

Washington waited at Brunswick until the 1st of December, hoping for reinforcements. In the meantime the enemy advanced upon him, robbing the people as they marched of provisions, horses, waggons and cattle. When they reached the Raritan, Washington partially destroyed the bridge; and, while Captain Hamilton held the ford with his field-pieces, again retreated—this time to Trenton. He, however, left two thin brigades under Generals Stirling and Stephen at Princeton.

The people of New Jersey were now exposed to the ravages of the enemy. They knew little of war and its horrors and had been slow to enlist in the cause for freedom. Many of them were rank Tories and the others too often regarded the war but a rebellion which was all but put down. But the manner in which they were treated by the British and the still worse treatment they received at the hands of the Hessians (who recognised no distinction between Tory and Whig) soon made them boiling mad; and in the end they divided sharply, as had all the other states, eventually

coming nobly to the support of the cause. But at this time, when Lord Howe offered a pardon to such rebels as would return home and desist from further treasonable acts, many of the few supporters of the Revolution took advantage of the opportunity.

Lee in the meantime had begun, reluctantly, to move. On the 30th of November he reached Peekskill. But he did not cross the Hudson until the 4th of December, spending the intervening time in a quarrel with General Heath. Lee wanted Heath to reinforce him so that he might alone make battle with the British and free the Jerseys, which Washington had failed to do. In the meantime Washington moved his heavier military stores across the Delaware into Pennsylvania. Then being reinforced by about fifteen hundred Pennsylvania troops, he took forward about the same number to Princeton to reinforce Generals Stirling and Stephen.

So you will see, Boy, that Washington was in front of the enemy with a small force and Lee in rear of it. Even a boy can see that the English could turn on either part of this divided army and crush it. No one knew this better than Lee. He should have been on the flank of the English, and while annoying them, at the same time moving rapidly to join Washington. But Lee wanted an opportunity to win laurels for himself. So he moved slowly and was far in rear of the army of Corn-

wallis, loitering and speculating on the dearth of military genius in the American army, meaning, of course, Washington's own inability.

Cornwallis, well aware of Lee's position, made a forced march upon Princeton. The Americans retreated to Trenton, and there crossed the river, destroying all the boats after crossing. The rear-guard was barely across when Cornwallis "came marching down with all the pomp of war in great expectation of getting boats and immediately pursuing." But Cornwallis was disappointed about the boats and was brought to a standstill. He gave up all thought of pursuit, therefore, and it now being well into December, distributed his Germans in cantonments along the Delaware on the Jersey side; and, with his main body went into winter quarters, temporarily, at Brunswick. He hoped to be able to cross the river on the ice, later, and complete the campaign.

Lee had now (December 8th) only reached Morristown. Washington was ordering him to join. Lee was delaying for reinforcements, which he expected from Gates. The next day, at Chatham, he heard that these reinforcements were at Peekskill. He wrote General Heath to forward them promptly. "I am in hopes," said he, "to reconquer the Jerseys." Besides the three regiments just mentioned, four more under the immediate command of Gates were behind them. Lee moved his army to Vealtown, but eight miles from

Morristown, leaving General Sullivan in command and taking up quarters himself at Baskingridge, three miles away. He was here protected by but a small guard. On the morning of the 13th Colonel Scammell, the adjutant-general, waited upon him for orders for General Sullivan. Colonel Wilkinson, of General Gates' staff, was also there, seeking orders for the latter's command. Lee was under orders from Washington to move to Alexandria on the Delaware, where boats had been collected for him to cross. He gave orders, however, for Sullivan to move with the army to Pluckamin, on the road to Brunswick and Princeton. There was no doubt that he meant to disobey Washington and attack the British on his own account. But the Great Jehovah, called upon by Ethan Allen, was evidently watching American interests with a particularly keen eye that day. No sooner had Scammell departed than an insignificant detachment of English dragoons surrounded the tavern, drove off Lee's guard and captured him. They made him mount Wilkinson's horse, bareheaded and in his slippers, and galloped off with him to Brunswick; where, three hours later, the booming of cannon told the Americans of the joy of the British at capturing the so-called "American Palladium." Wilkinson (escaping) jumped on the first horse he could find and made for General Sullivan, who was already on the march to Pluckamin. He told the latter of Lee's cap-

ture. Sullivan, finding himself in command, immediately changed the route of his march to join Washington and sent Wilkinson back to Gates with orders to do the same.

Lee's own carelessness had ruined his ambitious project within a few hours after he had finally resolved upon it.

CHAPTER X

THE BATTLES OF TRENTON AND PRINCETON

MAGNANIMOUS Washington, fully aware of Lee's ambitions and disobedience, merely expressed to Congress his keen sense of the loss of Lee's services to the American cause. To Congress he also made an appeal for more troops, and before adjourning they clothed him with "all power to order and direct all things relative to the department and to the operations of war until they should otherwise order." This enabled him to raise some new companies, offer bounties to those whose enlistments were expiring for six weeks' more service, and to recruit three battalions of artillery. The local militia turned out in good numbers, and Colonel John Cadwalader brought a large detachment of troops from the city of Philadelphia. In addition, General Sullivan arrived on the 20th of December, with the troops recently under the command of Lee. But they were in a wretched condition, ill-fed, sick and destitute of almost everything. General Gates arrived the same day with the four regiments he had been bringing from Peekskill.

Washington now had quite an army at his command, compared with what it had been ; but in ten days, at the end of the year, it would dwindle to a bare fifteen hundred. The enlistments of almost all of his men ran out at the end of the year ; and, after a year of hard fighting, and rough marching (to say nothing of almost continuous peril) it is not to be wondered at that they should wish to go to their homes. The wonder is that they remained with their regiments so faithfully. It was mid-winter. The year had been a disastrous one. A new army could not be assembled until spring ; and the number that could be then assembled would depend very much on the conclusions drawn by the country of the campaign during the preceding year.

If ever a victory was needed it was needed then. There were still ten days—ten precious winter days left of the year 1776. What could man do in that time against a superior enemy ?

A genius could prove his genius perhaps. And that is exactly what Washington did. At dinner, during the next few days, Colonel Wilkinson noticed that Washington seemed "pensive and solemn in the extreme." But under his solemn aspect his giant mind was hard at work.

Vastly different was Howe, the British commander. He was at New York indulging himself in amusement and indolence. His troops were carelessly scattered from Brunswick to the Del-

aware. The Hessians were in advance, along the river and at various detached points near it. Cornwallis was also in New York, about to leave for England, on a short leave of absence. All told, Washington had about six thousand men. But they were eager to fight while still in the army, even though their enlistments were nearly out. Revenge on the Hessians, who had committed such injuries on their homes, would be sweet to them indeed. Moreover, they had no longer such a dread fear of the Hessians. The latter had become careless and ease-taking. Their discipline was growing lax.

At Trenton there was a brigade of three regiments of Hessians. It was under the command of Colonel Rahl, who had so distinguished himself at Fort Washington. He was a brave but careless man, more in love with music, especially during the holiday period, than with duty. He, too, liked his ease. His officers advised him to throw up works for defence.

"Works—pooh—pooh!" answered the Colonel. "Let the rebels come. We'll give them the bayonet."

Washington communicated his plan of striking the Hessians at Trenton to Gates. Gates had the same opinion of Washington that Lee, his friend, had. He begged to be excused; pleaded ill-health as a reason for not joining in the enterprise, and went to Philadelphia. He did not go to Bristol,

as Washington requested, to adjust the small difficulties between the regulars and volunteers, who were watching the Hessians at Bordentown; and, concert with Cadwalader and Reed, a plan of operations against them. Gates believed that Washington would fail, and that the English would soon take Philadelphia. He intended to go on to lay a plan of his own before Congress, at Baltimore.

Washington proceeded with the scheme alone, and, thanks to Gates' lack of confidence in him, alone gets the credit for one of the most brilliant manœuvres in the history of the wars of the American Republic.

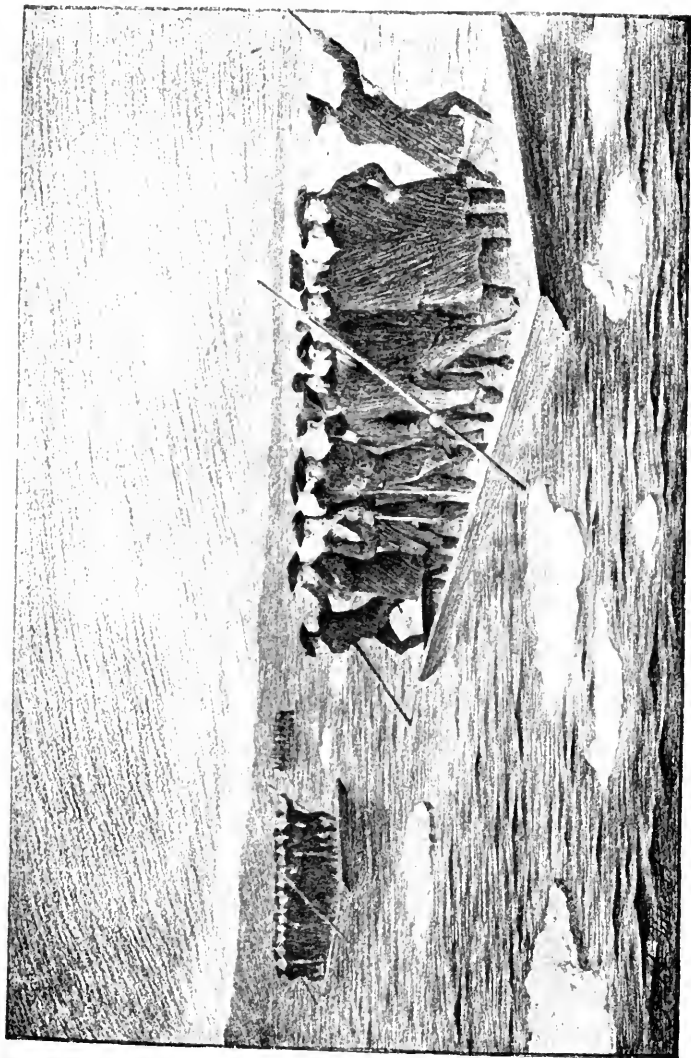
His plan was to cross the Delaware River, himself, about nine miles above Trenton, and march upon Rahl. At the same time General Ewing was to cross about a mile below Trenton, and secure possession of a bridge across the Assunpink, a creek that flows along the southern edge of the town, thus cutting off their retreat. And while this attack was being made on Rahl, Putnam, with troops from Philadelphia, where they had been fortifying the city, and Cadwalader from Bristol, were to cross lower down the river at Burlington, and fall upon the lower Hessian posts under command of Count Donop. Christmas night was fixed on for the undertaking. It was known that the Hessians would celebrate the day, and it was supposed that many of them would be under the influence of liquor.

Putnam was held in Philadelphia because of a feared insurrection. He sent six hundred men to Cadwalader's aid, however.

Washington, with two thousand men, under Generals Greene, Sullivan, Mercer, Stephen and Stirling, began to cross the Delaware at McKonkey's Ferry, about sunset. As at the retreat from Long Island, the regiment of Marblehead fishermen, under Colonel Glover, were invaluable. Colonel Knox superintended the crossing of the artillery, his strong lungs giving orders above the din and rumble of the artillery, being a guide for the boats as they passed over and back.

THE BATTLE OF TRENTON

Though the crossing began at sunset it was nearly four o'clock in the morning before the little army took up its line of march. As there were but two thousand men the difficulty of the undertaking can be imagined from the length of time occupied. This late start made it impossible to surprise Trenton, as Washington had hoped, for it was nine miles away. There was no turning back, however. That would have been more dangerous than going forward. The army moved forward, therefore, in two columns, one under Washington and Greene making for the northern end of the town; the other under Generals Sullivan and St. Clair taking the river road to the western side of Trenton.



“WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE.”—Page 128

Rahl had been warned of the intended attack. He had supposed it was to be made by one column, and that a mere detachment under General Stirling. At the very time that Washington was preparing to cross the river the evening before (a stirring Christmas night that must have been, Boy) there was an alarm at one of Rahl's outposts. The whole garrison flew to arms and hastened in the direction of the firing, finding upon their arrival that some six men had been wounded by a party of Americans who had suddenly come out of the woods and as suddenly departed. Rahl supposed this to be the attack of which he had been warned. He concluded that it was a mere flash in the pan and returned to Trenton, where he remained blissfully at ease and utterly unconscious of the fate that was soon to overtake him. No one has ever been able to determine, accurately, what party of Americans it was that gave this alarm to Rahl and assisted so materially in the attack on Trenton by lulling Rahl into a sense of security.

Snow and hail began to fall as the little American army, Washington's forlorn hope now, began its march. Two men were frozen to death on the road and most of the muskets were rendered unfit for use by the storm. But the Americans pushed on with the determination to themselves rely on the bayonet. Under the circumstances Sullivan, however, did not know what to do with his

column and their almost useless guns. So he went to Washington for orders. The orders came back sharp and severe. "Advance and charge," were the orders.

About eight o'clock in the morning Washington's column neared the city. The snow deadened the noise of the march and the rumble of the artillery. Moreover, it kept every one within doors. Even the pickets were not alert. The first approached was nearly captured bodily by the advance guard (in which, by the way, there was a young lieutenant, James Monroe, who afterward became President of the United States).

For once in the history of battle two attacks were made exactly as planned, simultaneously. As Washington's column became engaged with the Hessian outposts they could hear Sullivan's guns at the other end of the town.

In the town the drums now beat the alarm, and the trumpets called the light horse and dragoons to "boots and saddles." Some of the Hessians tried to form in the streets, but they were too late. Others fired from the windows of houses in which they had been quartered. Sullivan detached Stark to press on to the southern end of the town. They nearly captured the light horse and some Hessians quartered there. But the latter took headlong flight by the bridge across the Assunpink, which was to have been held by

General Ewing. Ewing was prevented from crossing the Delaware by the quantity of ice in the river.

For his part, Colonel Rahl lost his head completely. He tried bravely to rally his astonished and panic-stricken troops; but he did not, himself, know which way to turn. He got his troops out of the town proper into an orchard, eventually; and he might have made his escape. But the idea of flying before the despised rebels was little to his liking. He had been greatly enjoying his laurels lately earned at Fort Washington, and he did not care to lose them so soon. So, instead of continuing his flight, he charged back into the town he had been so glad to escape from a few minutes before. His rashness cost him his life and his men their liberty. He was mortally wounded while making his foolish bayonet charge, and his men, refusing to obey the second in command, tried to retreat up the right bank of the Assunpink to Princeton. Washington saw their design and threw Colonel Hand and his Pennsylvanians across their path. Then they surrendered, the wounded Colonel Rahl, supported by some of his sergeants, himself handing Washington his sword. It was a glorious day for the American cause. But it would have been a still more glorious one had Ewing and Cadwalader been able to cross the river. Either would have been able to head off and capture the fleeing British and Hes-

sians from the lower part of the town and preventing their junction with Count Donop.

For the same reason Washington was now in a perilous position. Count Donop had a larger force than he possessed, and there was a strong force at Princeton. His own men were worn out and had to guard about a thousand prisoners. He could not hope to hold Trenton. Before leaving it, however, he and Greene paid a consolatory visit to the wounded Colonel Rahl, who died and was eventually buried there. He also sent his prisoners into Pennsylvania, where they were soundly reviled for hiring themselves into service to oppress a free people. Especially were they scolded by the old women. At length Washington had to take measures to protect them from these insults.

Though Ewing and Cadwalader had failed to get across the Delaware, Colonel Griffin, who had been sent out by Putnam, succeeded. He made a feint against Donop's force and drew the latter after him for a considerable distance. When Donop returned, it was only to learn of the disaster at Trenton. About the same time Cadwalader heard of it, with great exultation, as may be imagined. He now determined to make the attempt to cross the river again, and succeeded; but not until noon of the 27th. He hardly knew what to do, but decided at length to make a demonstration against Donop, if nothing more. At

Burlington Cadwalader learned that Donop was in full retreat. As a matter of fact, the Hessians estimated Washington's force at from six to sixteen thousand; and Donop was running away in panic from an inferior force. Then Cadwalader pressed on, writing to Washington for orders and saying: "If we can drive them from West Jersey, the success will raise an army next spring and establish the credit of the Continental money to support it." And that was what Washington had, indeed, done in less than a week. That was the result of his planning and scheming while he seemed so solemn to Wilkinson, the observer.

The brilliant victory had an immediate effect. Troops began to arrive reinforcing both Washington and Cadwalader, and the Jersey militia flew to arms to harass the enemy. Heath was ordered from the Highlands and Washington prepared for another stroke after allowing his men a day or two for rest.

In the meantime the angered people, who had been treated so badly by the Hessians, became patriots indeed.

On the 29th Washington again advanced from the Delaware and began the pursuit of Donop. The latter divided his command, sending one part to Princeton and the other to Brunswick. But the enlistments of most of Washington's haggard and worn command were up on the next day. He absolutely needed them and to keep them

offered them bounties in good hard cash. To obtain this he wrote to Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, asking him for anything in the shape of coin, even if it were but a hundred pounds. Morris, himself anxious that the victory should be followed up, obtained the money from a wealthy Quaker and sent it on immediately.

General Howe had been taking things easily in New York, confident that when the Delaware froze over he could finish the campaign. What were his feelings when he heard of the affair of Trenton and of the headlong flight of the Hessians under Donop! He stopped Cornwallis, who was on the point of embarking for England, and sent him back into the field. The British now assembled in the vicinity of Princeton and began to advance their large pickets towards Trenton, which meant a counter attack with vastly superior numbers upon Washington. This put Washington in danger and he called to him the commands of Cadwalader and Mifflin (who had reinforced Cadwalader). Yet he did not wish to retreat across the Delaware without striking a blow on account of the effect it would have on the inhabitants of the Jerseys.

Washington chose a position on the east side of the Assunpink, planting his artillery where it could cover the very bridge by which the small body of Hessians and light horse had escaped from Trenton, and the various fords. On the 2d of

January, 1777, in the early morning Washington heard of the approach of Cornwallis. About noon the British drove in the advance guard. Near the town, on some high ground, Colonel Hand held them for a time in check; but, eventually, the whole body of Washington's army stretched along the left bank of the Assunpink. The advance of Cornwallis had been so stubbornly contested by the advance guard, some outlying detachments and Colonel Hand, however, that it was almost sunset when Cornwallis drew up his force before Washington's army. He tried in vain to force the bridges and fords, but failed. His dense columns were repeatedly driven back by the artillery. At length, when night fell, Cornwallis went into camp and waited for the morrow to avenge the disaster at Trenton. But he waited for one of those morrows that never come. He made his boast, however, that he would "bag his fox in the morning."

On their side of the Assunpink the Americans lit their camp-fires, and the two armies settled down to watch each other during the night. It was the most gloomy night that had ever settled upon the American army. The morning apparently could bring them nothing but defeat. It was impossible to retreat across the Delaware, and even if such a retreat could be effected it would but leave matters where they were when the campaign began, with nothing to show for all

of the army's hard work and hardships but a mere thousand Hessian prisoners.

Again Washington had been scheming, however. Most of the British force was now in his front. But a small force could have been left at Princeton, and at Brunswick the British stores must have been left weakly guarded. There was a road called the Quaker road parallel to that on which the British had advanced. Washington made up his mind to march by this road past the sleeping British, push on to their rear, destroy their force at Princeton and make for Brunswick. It was almost the scheme of a desperate man. But it promised success even if at a great hazard.

The heavy baggage was sent back to Burlington, therefore, and Washington to deceive the enemy had his men begin to dig trenches in front of his position. When night had well fallen Washington drew his army out of camp and started with all haste for Princeton. He left behind a few men to continue the digging of the trenches as noisily as possible, and others to go the rounds of the guards, relieving sentries and so forth. At daybreak all these were to hasten after the army proper.

The Quaker road by which he travelled was a roundabout way to Princeton, joining the Princeton road over which Cornwallis had advanced only about two miles from Princeton.

THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

It was almost sunrise when Washington with his little army reached the vicinity of Princeton. He crossed Stony Brook about three miles from the town and took a short cut, little exposed to view, towards Princeton, sending Mercer along the main road with the advance guard to destroy bridges and intercept fugitives or check any movement of the British in the town towards Trenton. As Mercer advanced on the Quaker road to capture the bridge over Stony Brook on the main road, he was seen by Colonel Mawhood, of the British 17th regiment, who supposed his force was a small body of Americans fleeing from Cornwallis. He faced about, therefore, to intercept them. At the same time the 55th regiment of the enemy was preparing to follow Mawhood on to join Cornwallis, while another regiment (the 40th) and some dragoons were still in the town. Mawhood could not tell the number of the Americans, as they were largely hidden by the woods between the two roads. He sent messengers to hurry out the other regiments, to help make the capture, however.

When Mawhood had recrossed the bridge he came in full sight of the van of Mercer's brigade. Both Mawhood and Mercer immediately made for some rising ground, Mercer reaching it first. Here the Americans formed behind a hedge fence, and

the fight began. Mercer was wounded at the first fire of the British, but his men continued a destructive fire with their rifles, until the enemy charged with their bayonets. As the riflemen were not armed with such a weapon they were obliged to retreat. Mercer, the gallant, tried, though wounded, to rally them. A British soldier hit him on the head with his clubbed musket, and, as Mercer tried to parry the blow with his sword, others bayoneted him repeatedly. He was eventually left on the field supposedly dead.

In the meantime Washington had sent a body of Pennsylvania militia back to aid Mercer. When Mawhood discovered their approach he ceased his pursuit and opened on this new force with his artillery, which brought it to a standstill. Just then Washington arrived on the scene himself; and, realising the critical state of affairs, himself rallied Mercer's demoralised troops, galloping to them under the fire of Mawhood's artillery. Never was Washington in more peril of his life than at this time, when he might be truthfully said to be fighting like a common soldier. The militia Washington had sent to aid Mercer now rallied, as did Mercer's troops. At the same time the 7th Virginia regiment moved forward into the fight with cheers, and the American artillery opened from another hill to the south.

Mawhood was now in great danger. From being apparent captor, he found himself practi-

cally surrounded. He fought with great bravery, however, and eventually succeeded in breaking through the American lines and making good his escape along the main road to Trenton. After he had crossed the bridge for the third time that morning and was retreating, Washington had the bridge destroyed to prevent the rear-guard of Cornwallis' army from using it in pursuit when he heard of the battle.

The main body had pushed on and its advance guard had met the 55th regiment. This soon gave way and retreated towards Brunswick. A part of the 40th regiment also escaped to Brunswick, the remainder taking refuge in the college buildings, where they were eventually captured.

In the brief action of Princeton the English lost about one hundred killed and three hundred taken prisoners, while the American loss was but thirty or thirty-five. The English lost Captain Leslie, son of the Earl of Leven, and the Americans the brave Colonel Haslet. But, far worse, it was found that the gallant and efficient General Mercer was mortally wounded. He was left attended by his aide-de-camp, Major Armstrong, at the house of the Mr. Clark who owned the hill upon which his men had fought. There he afterwards died.

In the meantime Washington continued the pursuit of the British towards Brunswick. He desired to take that place and destroy the stores there. That would make his victory complete.

But he remembered that his men were tired out. The rear-guard of Cornwallis' army was but six miles from Princeton when the battle opened and must even now be nearing him in pursuit. They would undoubtedly overtake him before he could reach Brunswick, and he would have a battle on his hands with greatly fatigued men. To destroy the stores at Brunswick, therefore, meant the possible, even probable, destruction of his own army. He was as prudent as he was wise and brave ; and he decided, therefore, to turn off towards the heights in the neighbourhood of Morristown. There he would be in a wooded and mountainous country, where he could get abundant supplies. He would be on the flank of the British and able to harass them whenever and wherever he wished. He turned aside at Kingston to the left, and marched to Pluckamin, where he halted to give his tired men a short rest. He had broken down all the bridges behind him and was practically safe for a time from pursuit.

CHAPTER XI

ARNOLD'S BATTLE ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN—EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS—PROMOTIONS—ARNOLD'S DISAPPOINTMENT—TRYON AT DANBURY—MEIGS AT SAG HARBOR

IMAGINE the surprise and consternation of my Lord Cornwallis when he awoke on the morning of that 3d of January to find Washington and his army gone. For a time, while he nursed his chagrin, his officers sought vainly to learn whither Washington had fled. At length the booming of cannon in the direction of Princeton told his astonished and mortified lordship that not only had Washington escaped him, but had completely outgeneralled him, and was making an attack on his rear with the evident intention of destroying his stores at Brunswick. In haste Cornwallis faced his army about and set off for Princeton. He reached the bridge over Stony Brook just in time to see the Americans complete its destruction and hurry away after their main body. Completely angered, Cornwallis made his men wade the breast-high icy stream and pushed on. But Washington had turned off to Pluckamin and Cornwallis, with a sigh of relief, found his stores at Brunswick

safe. He no longer sneered at Washington's caution. He no longer called him a "fox that he would surely bag." Indeed it was not long before the whole of Europe was ringing with Washington's praises, and he was now called the "American Fabius."

Washington called Putnam from Philadelphia, which was no longer in danger, and set him at work watching Cornwallis. The latter went into cantonments for the winter, and was in some ways in a state of siege. He was not permitted a moment's rest by the sturdy Americans. He could not send out a foraging party without its being attacked, and, if not captured, at least roughly handled. Meanwhile Washington sent Heath and Lincoln to make a demonstration against New York to worry the enemy. The whole situation of affairs had indeed been changed by Washington's two brilliant strokes. The end of the campaign was as brilliant as the remainder was unsatisfactory. Washington himself now went into winter quarters at Morristown.

We must now go back to the time Washington first entered the Jerseys and take a short glance at matters in the northern part of New York State. Schuyler and Gates were then defending Lake Champlain and Crown Point and Ticonderoga from the British under Sir Guy Carleton. Gates fitted out a flotilla of improvised fighting boats, consisting of a sloop, three schooners and five

gondolas for service on the lake, and gave the command of it to Arnold. On the British side boats were brought from England in pieces and put together at St. John's. Carleton and his officers were afraid that the war would end before they had a chance to distinguish themselves. He expected to capture Crown Point and Ticonderoga, later Albany (which would put all northern New York at his mercy) and, eventually co-operate with Howe.

Three months passed before his armament was complete, however, and with each week that slipped by his hopes for a successful campaign in 1776 languished. In October he was ready for action on Lake Champlain, however, with a fleet of between twenty and thirty ships. Arnold's fleet, if such it can be called, was increased by a sloop, three galleys and three gondolas. He had a very inferior array to the British fleet, however; and, therefore, chose a favourable spot on one side of Valcour Island at the head of the lake. The British fleet sailed against him on the 11th of October, but encountering head winds, were at a disadvantage, especially with their larger boats, for some time, and Arnold fought fiercely throughout the day. He was beset from the shore, too, by Carleton's Indian allies. He was at length obliged to withdraw, and to escape had to pass through the British fleet. They did not get far away, however, as they had to stop to repair and

stop leaks when but ten miles away. The next day adverse winds separated the fleet, the boats which were most badly damaged being left behind by the others. One of these was the boat which carried Arnold himself. In their crippled condition these had to be abandoned a few miles from Crown Point. They made this place by land, escaping an Indian ambush almost by accident, and the next day, setting fire to Crown Point, made for Ticonderoga on that portion of the fleet which had got safely away.

In the meantime Gates had been hard at work strengthening the defences of Ticonderoga, and Carleton, after holding Crown Point for a time, eventually returned to St. John's and sent his army into winter cantonments in Canada.

Washington found his encampment at Morristown, where he had at first expected to remain but a short time—an excellent place to watch the British, and an equally good place to camp. Moreover, his position was naturally a strong one, and, should he be attacked from it, there were several lines of retreat into a country fertile and peopled with friends. His troops, however, suffered greatly from the ravages of the smallpox, which in those days seems to have been the great camp disease. While Howe and his officers were enjoying themselves in New York, where they were the lions of the Tory society, Washington was busying himself with the welfare of his men. He

prohibited gaming (which was one of Howe's main passions) and forbade his troops from making depredations even on the Tory inhabitants of the Jerseys. All this had a great and good effect on the people of the state. They were highly incensed against both British and Hessians, and never lost an opportunity to take revenge on the British for their many deeds of cruelty.

For the main part of the winter Washington had his hands full aiding Schuyler, who feared a winter attack on Ticonderoga, which was now held by Wayne with but a few hundred men, trying to effect an exchange of prisoners with Howe, and endeavouring to recruit his army, which kept constantly dwindling from the expiration of enlistments.

Schuyler was in trouble in every quarter, largely due to the machinations of Gates, who wished to command the northern army in the next campaign. Schuyler gave offence to Congress and eventually claimed his seat in it in order to insist on a court of inquiry. He apologised to Congress for a disrespectful letter, and at length a court of inquiry met and cleared him of all charges. Schuyler was an able, patriotic man ; but he was full of punctilio, insisted on implicit obedience, order and discipline ; and was not well fitted to get along with the rough patriots who formed the greater part of the American army.

By this time the war of the states for indepen-

dence had attracted many European soldiers to this country. Some of these were mere soldiers of fortune, who saw an opportunity to profit by their profession of arms. Others were actual heroes who came to fight for the cause of liberty. Congress nearly made the mistake of appointing a Frenchman by the name of Decoudray to the command of all the artillery on the strength of an agreement made with our representative at the French court. This would have caused the immediate resignation of General Knox, then in command, who was one of Washington's most trusted officers. Congress did appoint one Colonel Conway a brigadier-general, and of him I shall tell you more later. It was a mistake to appoint him; but Washington, who suffered most from his future doings, shared in the mistake.

There was no mistake made with Thaddeus Kosciuszko, however. He was a Pole of ancient family who had been disappointed in a love affair with a lady of rank. He came to Washington with a letter of introduction and recommendation from Franklin. He had been educated for the profession of arms in his own country and in France.

"What can you do?" Washington asked him.

"Try me," answered Kosciuszko, simply.

The reply pleased Washington, and he immediately took the young Pole into his military family as an aide-de-camp. He became a distin-

guished soldier not only in our own country but his own.

Promotions made by Congress among our own generals gave more trouble to Washington. Stirling, Lincoln, Mifflin, Stephen and St. Clair were promoted to the rank of major-general. At this Arnold was deeply hurt and greatly incensed. He ranked everyone of them as a brigadier-general, he had fought and bled in the cause, and had been the hero of many daring exploits in the war. He wrote Washington saying he intended to resign and asked for a court of inquiry. Washington tried to explain to him that Congress had made the appointments on the ground that each state was entitled to an equal number of major-generals, the number at the time being two. Connecticut already having two major-generals, Arnold had to be left out. "I confess," Washington wrote to Arnold, "that this is a strange mode of reasoning; but it may serve to show you that the promotion which was due to your seniority was not overlooked for want of merit in you." But this did not satisfy Arnold. He was wounded to the quick, and would have resigned at once but for the personal request of Washington that he remain in the service if "his own feelings would permit him to."

Strangely enough Arnold had an immediate opportunity to distinguish himself again. Fate dealt strangely with this man. Tryon, the late

Governor of New York, had been commissioned by the English a major-general of provincials, which would correspond to a major-general of volunteers in our own army to-day. With a mixed force of Tories and regulars, he sailed down the coast of Connecticut, landed at the mouth of the Saugatuck River and pushed on to Danbury, twenty-three miles in the interior, to destroy the large deposit of military stores held there. Generals Silliman and brave old General Wooster immediately aroused the neighbouring militia, and notified Arnold, who was at New Haven on his way to Philadelphia to settle his accounts with Congress.

Always ready in a time of danger, Arnold forgot for a time his injuries and rode in haste to the neighbourhood of Danbury. It was the 26th of March when Tryon reached the place after marching all night. Wooster and Arnold brought their followers (whom they had gathered as they went along) to General Silliman, who had already raised about five hundred men; and the three concocted a plan to punish the British on their retreat. Wooster, nearly seventy years old, took command and sent Arnold with four hundred men to Ridgefield to intercept the retreat of the enemy, while he with a few hundred more annoyed them from the rear. Perhaps you will think, Boy, that a rear attack upon an army would only hasten its retreat. In effect the opposite is the result. The attacked

army's rear-guard has to halt and fight its pursuers, and the main body must either halt or slow down for fear of getting separated from its rear-guard by too great a distance.

Early on the morning of the 27th Tryon began his retreat to his ships. He was immediately attacked by Wooster with great spirit, and the fighting was hot until the British force was within a couple of miles of Ridgefield, when Wooster was killed. As usual when a commanding officer of a small force is killed the troops under him retreated in disorder. The delay of the British by the constant fighting had given Arnold an opportunity to throw up fortifications, however. Thus intrenched he with his four hundred men held the British off until his intrenchments were flanked, when he was compelled to retreat in turn. Arnold remaining with his own rear-guard had a horse shot under him, and his foot becoming entangled in his stirrup, was nearly captured. He managed to get away, though, after killing one of the enemy who attempted to make him prisoner. Tryon's forces were now tired out and he intrenched himself in Ridgefield for the night.

The next day Tryon set forth again. But Colonel Huntingdon, of the regular Continentals, now brought the troops which had been driven from Danbury and the remnants of Wooster's men to attack him in rear. Arnold, too, reinforced by two companies of artillery with three

guns, again placed himself in Tryon's front. This time the British were in too much difficulty to risk a fight with Arnold's little command ; and when they came in sight of his position turned aside. Arnold now flung himself on the enemy's flank, and the latter were forced to entrench themselves on a hill for the night. They were, however, within cannon-shot of their ships. The latter landed a large force of sailors and marines, and with their help Tryon, although again hard pressed, managed to embark. In the fighting here Colonel Lamb of the artillery was wounded and Arnold had another horse shot under him. This ended the affair. Tryon had succeeded in destroying a large and valuable amount of military stores, including seventeen hundred tents which had been prepared for the use of Washington's army in the coming campaign. For his achievement in harassing the enemy to the extent he did (which deterred them from attempting to repeat the exploit), Congress now made Arnold a major-general and presented him with a finely caparisoned horse. But even this did not soothe Arnold's wounded feelings. He was still junior in rank to the five generals who had been promoted over him.

In retaliation for this destructive expedition, Colonel Meigs, who had accompanied Arnold to Quebec, made an attack on Sag Harbour at the eastern end of Long Island, where the British

had large stores of grain, forage and other supplies, and destroyed the depot, all the ships at the wharves and all the supplies, besides capturing the company of infantry stationed there to protect them.

Arnold was now offered the general command of the Hudson, which he declined, and the command was given to Putnam. Schuyler was put in full command in upper New York, which made Gates angry, though to no purpose, although it made his New England friends in Congress all the more keen in his behalf and all the more bitter towards Schuyler.

Toward the end of May, 1777, Washington moved from his winter cantonments at Morristown to Middlebrook, where he was within ten miles of the British forces at Brunswick. He now had between seven and eight thousand men in forty-three regiments. From this we see that a regiment was a very small affair indeed, being composed on the average of less than two hundred men. These were divided into ten brigades commanded by Brigadier-generals Muhlenberg, Weedon, Woodford, Scott, Smallwood, Deborre, Wayne, Dehaas, Conway and Maxwell. The brigades were divided into five divisions which were commanded by Major-generals Greene, Stephen, Sullivan, Lincoln and Stirling. At the end of May Lord Howe's fleet put to sea in a manner that bewildered Washington, who could

not tell where it intended to strike, and more foreign hirelings arrived in New York to reinforce the British. Sir William Howe with the army moved out of Brunswick and fortified himself along the bank of the Raritan opposite Washington. It began to look as though the fleet under Lord Howe had Philadelphia, where Arnold had been induced to command, for its objective.

No doubt Sir William Howe wished to march on Philadelphia also, but he dared not make the movement and the dangerous crossing of the Delaware with Washington's energetic army hanging on his flank and rear. Washington knew he would not dare to move without first striking a blow at him, so both armies waited in their strong positions tempting the other to attack. Washington's patience was greater than Howe's, however, and the latter soon abandoned his position.

CHAPTER XII

HOWE LEAVES THE JERSEYS—MURDER OF MISS
MCCREA—SIEGE OF FORT STANWIX—BATTLE
OF ORISKANY—BATTLE OF BENNINGTON

AFTER marching, countermarching and skirmishing for a time, with the hope of drawing Washington from his strong position, Howe finally gave up the attempt, and crossed to Staten Island. The Jerseys were now abandoned by the British, who the year before supposed they had completely conquered them. There was now a great stir in New York, and among the transports anchored there. What did this mean? Where was Sir William Howe going? Where had Lord Howe gone? Such were the questions that perplexed Washington. On top of them came still another perplexity. General Stirling, who was now in command at Ticonderoga, reported that a force of British with a powerful contingent of Indian allies had appeared on Lake Champlain. What did this mean? Did Burgoyne intend to break through to New York with aid from Howe? Such was the case, though Washington did not know it. Such was the plan

formed in England. By a singularly careless mistake, however, the English government had given Burgoyne orders to move south to meet Howe, but had neglected to give Howe orders to move north to co-operate with Burgoyne. Consequently the latter thought Burgoyne powerful enough to get through without aid, and did not co-operate with him. So Washington waited at Morristown to learn in which direction it was more important to march with his troops, north against Burgoyne or south to defend Philadelphia. In the meantime he let the Jersey militia go out to attend to their crops. About this time Alexander Hamilton became an aide on Washington's staff.

We will now leave Washington for a while and follow the fortunes of the Americans in northern New York. Sir Guy Carleton remained in Canada, where his services were necessary as Governor. But General Burgoyne, with a splendidly equipped force of about eight thousand men, was advancing in triumph by the route Carleton had tried the year before. In Burgoyne's army were Generals Phillips, Fraser, Powell and Hamilton and the Brunswicker, Major-General Riedesel. Phillips, a man of great reputation, had command of the artillery, which was said to be the finest train of that arm ever given an army of the size of Burgoyne's. They were brass pieces such as we used ourselves even as late as the Civil War.

As Burgoyne advanced by the old route, Colonel St. Leger advanced further west to make a demonstration on the Mohawk River. Both commands had a number of Indian allies, some from Canada, who had become debased rather than civilised by their contact with the whites; others the wild tribes of western New York.

On the 16th of June Burgoyne began his march from St. John's with a baggage train altogether too heavy for the work he had before him, making the same mistake in this respect that Braddock did in an earlier war. Schuyler and St. Clair hurriedly added to the fortifications of Ticonderoga, and awaited Burgoyne's appearance. To oppose Burgoyne, General St. Clair, who was in command of the fort, had but three thousand five hundred men, though Washington had been informed and believed he had more. Many of these men were militia and all were poorly equipped. It was supposed by Washington that St. Clair had a force sufficient to hold the strong fortifications at Ticonderoga and its complementary, Fort Independence. Never was man more astonished than he, therefore, to learn, on the 7th of July, that St. Clair had abandoned the fort.

For two weeks little was heard of St. Clair. Matters were soon explained. St. Clair had failed to seize a hill, which commanded his fortifications, and had been forced to evacuate his strong position. Not only that, but he had been pursued so

vigilantly that his army had suffered very greatly. His loss in artillery, ammunition, provisions and stores was immense. The English were triumphant, but they had rested at Skenesborough, where they remained for several weeks. In the meantime, the Tories began flocking to his army, as they did also to the column under St. Leger.

Schuyler did everything possible to block Burgoyne's way and retard him. Every bridge was broken down or burnt, and great trees were felled across the roads. It was not until the end of July, therefore, that Burgoyne reached Fort Anne.

There were other troubles for Burgoyne, too. He was a man of high honour and disliked to make use of the Indians against his own race. He held them in as much check as possible, which dissatisfied them. They were intent on plunder and cold-blooded murder whenever chance favoured them. He appealed to the "wild honour" of the red men, but an unfortunate affair soon warned him of the nature of that "wild honour."

In one of his divisions there was a young lieutenant by the name of David Jones. He was engaged to a beautiful girl by the name of Jane McCrea. Miss McCrea's family were Whigs, while Jones was a Tory, but the attachment between the lovers did not cease on that account. As Burgoyne advanced, Jones, now a volunteer officer in the British army, reached his old neighbourhood. Miss McCrea, being on a visit at Fort

Edward, to a Royalist family, determined to remain and see him in spite of the remonstrance of her brother, who wished her to accompany him to Albany. Eventually her brother sent her a peremptory order to join him. She reluctantly arranged to obey him. While making these arrangements a marauding party of Indians, sent out by Burgoyne, captured her and the friend she was visiting. She made the mistake of offering them a large reward to take her safely into the British lines. The Indians quarrelled about the reward, and one of them, to settle the matter beyond further dispute, killed the poor cause of the quarrel. This horrified Burgoyne, who insisted that the murderer be given up by the Indians for punishment. He proved to be a chief, and the Indians declined. Jones resigned his commission and lived the remainder of his life a broken-hearted recluse. Burgoyne took further steps to discipline his savages, which made them still angrier, and they soon deserted him in large numbers. But there was even a more serious consequence to Burgoyne. The murder of Miss McCrea brought down upon Burgoyne the hatred of everyone in the land, and the militia flocked to the American standard to oppose Burgoyne and revenge her death. This standard, Boy, was now the stars and stripes you worship to-day. Then it was but a few weeks old. Congress had adopted it on the 14th of the preceding June.

Burgoyne now advanced to Fort Edward, which Schuyler had been compelled to evacuate, while the latter retreated to Saratoga or Stillwater, where he was joined by Lincoln with reinforcements.

In the meantime Colonel St. Leger had come down from Canada by Oswego, and was now investing Fort Stanwix, with his combined command of Indians and British. This fort was situated at the head of navigation on the right bank of the Mohawk River. It had been used in the French and Indian wars and was originally a place of great strength. Now it had fallen into poor repair. It was defended by Colonel Gansevoort, a New-Yorker of Dutch descent, with about eight hundred Continentals. Gansevoort sent to Schuyler for help, and Schuyler despatched General Herkimer to the assistance of the garrison.

THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY.

Herkimer sent scouts into the fort on August 5th, with instructions for Gansevoort to fire three signal guns when he was ready to co-operate. The scouts were delayed, having to make their way through a marsh, and it was late in the day when he received the information that Herkimer was near. In the meantime, Herkimer had been waiting for the signal guns. Unfortunately he had a brother and other relatives in the ranks of

the enemy, and was himself suspected of being a Royalist—which he by no means was. Two of his colonels charged him with being such, however, and with purposely delaying to give the enemy an opportunity to prepare for him. They also called him a coward. Stung by these reproaches, Herkimer at last gave the order to move forward before hearing the guns from the fort. There was a good deal of bad feeling in the command, and Herkimer neglected to send out a scouting party ahead. They were almost across a causeway of logs across a marshy ravine, with their main division, when they were attacked from ambush by the British and their allies. The whites attacked them in front while the Indians fought from either side. Herkimer's rear-guard abandoned him the moment the fight began. But the Indians failed to obey orders and charged after one simultaneous volley. This gave the Americans a chance. They were accustomed to Indian warfare, and they dropped behind logs and trees and fought the savages off. Early in the action, Herkimer was wounded in the leg; but he had himself placed against a tree, and, smoking his pipe, continued to direct the fight.

The British now charged with the bayonet, but the Americans proved themselves equal to this emergency also. They formed in circles back to back and drove the British regulars off. Against the Indians they fought in pairs behind trees.

One would fire and the other remain with his gun loaded while his comrade reloaded, then he would fire in turn. Otherwise the Indians would have rushed up after the discharge of a gun and have killed the soldier who fired it. At length, the Indians having suffered severely from the American fire, they suddenly flew from the field loudly crying "Oonah!" their retreating cry. The garrison of the fort now took a hand in the fight, and the alarmed British withdrew to their camp to defend it. Unfortunately the Americans under Herkimer were too much demoralised to push on to the fort. They made litters out of branches of trees, therefore, and putting the wounded upon them returned to Oriskany. Both parties claimed the victory. Herkimer, himself, died from his wounds nine days after the battle, calmly smoking his pipe and reading his Bible to the last. In the meantime the sortie of the garrison had been very successful. They drove the enemy from their camps and sacked them, seized what they wanted, destroyed the remainder and retreated successfully back into the fort.

St. Leger again demanded the surrender of the garrison, and tried to influence Gansevoort by fear and persuasion, without success. Schuyler now sent Arnold with another force to the relief of Fort Stanwix. Arnold sent a message to Gansevoort urging to hold out and assuring the latter that he "knew the strength of the

enemy and how to deal with them." He did. He sent an emissary to the British and Indian camp in the person of a half-witted boy named Yan Yost Cuyler, who was well known as a Tory sympathiser. He made the latter promise to give the information to the enemy that Arnold's force was vastly superior to what it really was, threatening the young man if he failed to accomplish the purpose of his errand, and holding his brother as security for the performance of it. Cuyler did his disagreeable errand well. When asked by the Indians how many men Arnold had, he replied, silently but eloquently, by pointing to the leaves of a tree. That settled matters so far as the Indians were concerned. They demanded an immediate retreat and St. Leger was forced to comply. The Indians had more than one bird to kill with this demand of theirs, however. They had plenty of opportunity to plunder St. Leger's men as they retreated, and they did so constantly. So the expedition against Fort Stanwix was a very unfortunate one for the British after all.

Burgoyne now found himself in difficulty for want of means of conveyance for his heavy baggage. After leaving his boats he required other means of transportation. Horses and waggons were necessary, and to obtain these he sent an expedition consisting mostly of Hessians into the horse-raising district of Vermont, in the neighbourhood of Bennington. Burgoyne had been

assured that he would find the country full of Tories and well disposed towards him. In this he was greatly mistaken. General Lincoln had been sent by Washington to arouse the Green Mountain boys to go to the aid of Schuyler.

Schuyler himself, still in trouble with Congress, determined to remain at his post in this time of danger, even if relieved (though as yet his successor had not been appointed) and do all in his power for the defence of the country. He now sent to Stark and made a personal appeal to him to come with his militia to the defence of the common country. That obstinate old hero, however, declined to do so, just as he had previously declined Lincoln's similar request. He had resigned his commission in the regular army because he had not been promoted. Stark would, however, command the militia if the enemy invaded Vermont. That gave him the command of the American forces at the battle of Bennington.

THE BATTLE OF BENNINGTON.

Lieutenant-Colonel Baum marched against Bennington with about five hundred men and two pieces of cannon. He had a mixed force of British, Canadians, Hessians and Indians. He set out on the 13th of August, but moved too slowly to take Bennington by surprise. Before he reached that point, Stark had gathered together about nine

hundred militia to oppose him. Nor did Stark wait at Bennington, but immediately pushed forth an advance force under Captain Gregg and followed on himself. Gregg had a sharp encounter with Baum's advance, and Stark met him retreating, whereupon Stark drew up his force in line of battle. All day on the 15th of August there was a heavy fall of rain, which prevented Stark from attacking Baum. There was continual skirmishing, however. What was of more importance Stark was reinforced by other detachments of militia. Among the latter was a detachment from Berkshire. They had often turned out, at various alarms, before; but they had never had a chance to fight the enemy. With them was a fighting parson by the name of Allen, who is supposed to have been a relative of Ethan Allen. He visited Stark that night and warned him that if he did not give the Berkshire men a chance to fight now they would never turn out again.

"What," said Stark, greatly amused, "you would not have me turn out and fight now while it is dark and raining, would you?"

"Not just now," answered the fighting parson, doubtfully.

"Well," said Stark, "if the Lord should once more give us sunshine and I don't give you enough fighting, I'll never ask you to turn out again."

The next day Stark made ready to attack Baum, though he had no artillery and the latter had taken the opportunity of the delay to erect intrenchments. He sent three hundred of his men under Colonel Herrick around Baum's right flank and two hundred under Colonel Nichols around the left. When the Tories with Baum saw these men approaching, apparently from the rear, they persuaded the latter that they were Tories coming to his aid. The Indians were the first to discover the mistake (a British expedition at this time would not have been correct without its accompaniment of savages). "The woods are full of Yankees," they cried and promptly retreated, yelling wildly. The two detachments came into action. The moment Stark heard the firing, he began the charge in front.

"There are the redcoats, my boys," he shouted, pointing to Baum's intrenchments. "Before night they are ours, or Molly Stark's a widow."

Baum fought desperately though almost surrounded. For two hours the battle raged. The American militia had never seen cannon before, but they charged right up to their muzzles, killing the gunners as they attempted a last volley. The Tories and Canadians ran, but Baum fought till his last cartridge was gone, and after fighting his dragoons ineffectually with the sword at last surrendered. Stark had promised his men the booty of the camp, and they promptly separated

to plunder. While they were dispersed Breyman, who had been sent after Baum by Burgoyne with a reinforcement, arrived on the scene. The battle so splendidly won would now have been lost. At this critical juncture, however, Colonel Seth Warner brought fresh troops on the field from Bennington, and the remainder of the army rallied around them. Breyman, like Baum, was soundly whipped in his turn, and compelled to retreat from hill to hill until darkness fell and brought the combat to a close. Another hour of daylight would have enabled Stark to capture the whole force. As it was, he captured four brass field-pieces, a thousand guns and about six hundred prisoners. His splendid victory probably saved him from being court-martialled for his refusal to obey Schuyler and aid in the defence against Burgoyne.

CHAPTER XIII

THE TWO BATTLES OF BEMIS' HEIGHTS—SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE—FIRST BATTLE OF BEMIS HEIGHTS

BURGOYNE was now in a perilous position. He found himself daily threatened with a greater and ever-gathering force of Americans. The failure of St. Leger and the loss at Bennington gave him an idea of what was before him. Nor did there seem to be any indication of an attempt to aid him from New York. He thought of retreat, but hoped to push his way through to Albany and remain there until help could reach him.

Gates, in the meantime, had been put in command of the American army, superseding Schuyler just as the latter had made all arrangements successfully to oppose the British commander with an army now consisting of about ten thousand men, among them Morgan and his riflemen. Having ousted Schuyler, Gates now turned his jealousy towards Arnold, and they soon quarrelled. Burgoyne chose moving forward and fighting as the lesser of the two evils of doing that or retreat-

ing. Arnold and Kosciuszko therefore picked out a battle-field for Gates on Bemis Heights. On the 13th and 14th of September Burgoyne neared the position. He was obliged to move slowly, as he had everywhere to repair roads and bridges. Arnold, at the head of about fifteen hundred skirmishers, kept constantly attacking and delaying the working parties of the British. On the 18th Burgoyne encamped on a range of hills about two miles from Gates' position. On the morning of the 19th he advanced to attack.

Burgoyne's plan was to turn the American left with the greater part of his force led by himself in person. The Canadians and Indians were to attack the centre, while the left wing of his army, under Generals Phillips and Riedesel, were to attack the right.

Arnold soon discovered the movement of the British upon the American left and sent frequent reports of the fact to Gates, who remained quietly and complacently in his tent. At length Gates gave him permission to oppose the movement. Arnold sent Morgan and Dearborn in that direction.

For a time these troops drove the advance of the enemy, but becoming scattered in the thickly-wooded country were in turn driven back when the right of the enemy was reinforced. Arnold now took a hand himself with other American detachments. He could not force

Fraser's position, however, and sent to Gates for reinforcements. These the latter declined to give. Arnold now made a detour and fell upon Fraser's extreme right in an attempt to flank him. He was soon engaged with the entire British right wing. This he nearly broke. But Burgoyne weakened his left and sent part of the troops of both Phillips and Reidesel to its assistance. Gates now sent reinforcements to Arnold, and the latter fought under cover of the woods and intrenchments until nightfall. When either side advanced it was driven back with loss, and the result was about equal. The British officers acknowledged that it was the hardest fought battle they had ever seen. The British remained in their position on the field. But from assailants they had become assailed, and though they had repulsed the American assault the victory was in doubt. Arnold was very indignant at Gates for not sending him reinforcements promptly and in sufficient numbers. He claimed that if they had been sent he would have been able to sever the British line. He was still further angered when Gates declined to let him renew the fight on the following morning. Gates subsequently excused himself from not sending reinforcements, on the ground that to have done so would have been to expose his own right, and from not following up the victory that Arnold claimed, on account of a lack of powder and ball, known only to himself.

Burgoyne now intrenched himself and erected batteries. Gates did likewise, on his left, his right being unassailable. The effect of the fighting of Morgan's riflemen was such that the Indians now left Burgoyne almost totally. The Canadians and provincials also began to leave him in large numbers. He was discouraged also by the news that General Lincoln had fallen upon Ticonderoga, had captured it and taken three hundred prisoners, had liberated one hundred American prisoners and was laying siege to Mount Independence.

Gates' jealousy of Arnold was now heightened by finding that the whole credit of the first Battle of Bemis Heights was given by one accord to Arnold, and in his despatches he did not even mention Arnold's name. Arnold called on Gates to remonstrate. Gates, in great anger, told Arnold that he had given him no command; as he understood Arnold had resigned his commission. He also said that as General Lincoln was shortly expected to be with the army he would have no further use for Arnold and would give him a pass to go to Philadelphia whenever he wished to, leaving a force to besiege Mount Independence.

In a few days Lincoln did arrive; but Arnold still insisted on his right to command the left and told Lincoln that he belonged on the right when the latter gave some orders to the men of the left. Lincoln and other officers thought for a time of trying to effect a reconciliation between Gates and

Arnold; but the idea was abandoned for fear of giving offence to Gates.

In the meantime the Americans were continually harassing Burgoyne. From the 20th of September until the 7th of October, the armies were so near to each other that not a night passed without an attack on the British outposts. Burgoyne still kept up hope, however, that Clinton would come to his rescue from New York. And, as a matter of fact, Clinton had advanced as far north as the Highlands of the Hudson. In the meantime Arnold and the army were impatient for action. Arnold even wrote Gates upon the subject. But the latter was shrewd, and his shrewdness won him about all the credit he really deserves in this campaign against Burgoyne. He saw how desperate the situation of Burgoyne was and knew that every day made it worse. Every day of delay, too, made Gates' own position better.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF BEMIS HEIGHTS.

On the 7th of October Burgoyne determined to make what to-day we would call an armed reconnaissance in force. He moved out of his camp on the right with fifteen hundred of his best troops, led by himself, Phillips and Fraser, to see if he could force a passage should he wish to advance, or dislodge the American left should he have to retreat. He hoped by the movement to give his

army an opportunity to forage also. Gates was soon apprised of the movement of the British and at once ordered all his officers to their alarm posts. He sent his aide, Wilkinson, to observe the movements of the enemy. The latter, returning, told him that the front of the enemy was exposed, and that their flanks rested on woods from which they might easily be attacked. Gates immediately ordered Morgan out to begin such an attack. Morgan went to the enemy's right. General Poor was at the same time to attack the left. Burgoyne had scarcely put his men in battle array when he was astonished to find himself assailed on both flanks. The fight at once became serious. Poor advanced rapidly up an ascent against Ackland's grenadiers and Williams' artillery. The guns were taken and retaken. The Hessians afterwards said they never before saw artillery charged with such utter recklessness. Finally Poor captured the artillery and turned the guns upon their owners. Ackland was wounded, and both he and Williams were captured.

Arnold was in his tent, but the sight of the battle was too much for him. He sprang on his horse and dashed off to the field, where he led Learned's brigade in a headlong charge against the Hessians in the centre. Gates sent an aide to call him back, but the aide was too slow to catch the excited Arnold. By repeated charges Arnold broke the enemy's ranks. In the meantime Morgan was

harassing the right of the enemy with an incessant fire. Here General Fraser opposed the American attack for some time with success. He was conspicuous on an iron-grey horse, and he was wearing a field officer's brilliant uniform. Morgan singled him out for death because his death seemed necessary. Some of Morgan's best shots, therefore, were detailed to bring the general down. Their first shot cut the crupper of his horse; the second shot grazed his mane; the third hit the general himself, mortally wounding him. This threw his corps into confusion, and the confusion was heightened by the appearance of reinforcements for the American left led by General Ten Broeck. Burgoyne now had to stir himself to save his camp. He abandoned his artillery and retreated under cover of the troops under Phillips and Riedesel.

Having driven Burgoyne into his camp, the Americans stormed it. They were led by Arnold, who was by this time in a fighting frenzy. They were unsuccessful in the right centre. Arnold, however, joined Colonel Brooks with the latter's Massachusetts regiment in an attack on the portion of the camp occupied by the German reserve and captured it, the Germans retreating and leaving Breyman, their commander, mortally wounded on the field. Arnold, too, had a horse killed under him and was again wounded in the leg which had received a wound in the attack upon Quebec.

Night fell, but there was no doubt on this occasion that the Americans had won the victory. They had driven Burgoyne from the field and part of his army from its fortifications. They had killed and wounded a great many of the British and their allies and captured their field artillery. Moreover, the part of the camp they had taken exposed the right and rear of the British army. The Americans lay on their arms that night expecting to renew the attack in the morning. During the night Burgoyne abandoned his camp and took position on ground more favourable for defence on the height about a mile away. It was a sorry night for him. Supposing that the campaign would be an easy one, a number of ladies, wives of various officers, had accompanied the expedition. They had even brought along some of their children. Among these ladies were the Baroness De Riedesel and Lady Ackland. General Fraser died in the house occupied by the former, and the husband of the latter was wounded in both legs and captured.

In the morning the Americans took possession of the camp which Burgoyne had abandoned, and they kept up a long range fire throughout the day. Gates did not think it necessary or wise to make an attack on Burgoyne, whose soldiers might now be expected to fight even more desperately. He contented himself with making dispositions to insure the eventual surrender of the British, which

he now knew must come in time. During the skirmishing, however, General Lincoln was slightly wounded.

Burgoyne saw that an immediate retreat was necessary, but he delayed to attend the funeral of General Fraser, whose dying request was that he should be buried in a redoubt he had erected at six o'clock in the evening. When the funeral procession filed off to the burial, the Americans could see it but indistinctly. For a time, therefore, they fired upon it with artillery. Later, hearing of the real nature of the affair, they ceased and for the rest of the ceremony fired minute-guns in honour of the dead Briton. That night Burgoyne retreated again, abandoning his hospital tents, with their sick and wounded, and many of his stores. A terrific storm burst upon the army while it was retreating, and the feelings of the defeated Burgoyne may be imagined better than they can be described. During the night Lady Ackland bravely went to the American camp to the assistance of her wounded husband. To her surprise, she was treated with every civility and kindness and soon had reason to change her preconceived opinions of the American army and its officers.

Burgoyne retreated to Saratoga, which he reached the next evening. But a detachment of the American army was already there and had thrown up intrenchments to intercept him. On

the 10th Burgoyne crossed the Hudson and took position in intrenchments and redoubts which had been constructed some time before. To delay the American advance and screen his troops, he ordered a large number of houses to be burned, among them the country house, granary and stables belonging to General Schuyler.

Burgoyne now decided to abandon all his artillery and heavy impedimenta, let his troops carry their provisions upon their backs and make a desperate dash for safety. But he had no sooner decided upon the plan than he made the discovery that Gates was now in his rear in great force. As a matter of fact, the American army was being increased every day by constant arrivals of militia. He gave up the attempt, therefore, and fortified himself in the hope that Sir Henry Clinton would yet come to his aid from New York. His camp was constantly under fire and his men continually under arms, however, and his provisions were running short. The Canadians and Royalist Americans promptly deserted him now, and so did the last of his Indian allies. On the 17th of October, therefore, he surrendered. His army was reduced to about six thousand men. Gates had at this time about double the number. By the conditions of the surrender the British troops were to be sent to England on condition that they would not again serve in the war. The officers were paroled, and all private property was

secured to both officers and men. By the capitulation the American army gained possession of the entire train of artillery that had been such a pride to the British army, seven thousand stands of arms, tents, clothing and military stores of all kinds. The victors received the vanquished with great good feeling, and honours were showered upon the officers. It is something to be proud of, Boy, that American soldiers, when victors, have never taunted or insulted their captives. It has been true of them in all their wars.

The Baroness de Riedesel with her children was entertained by the polite and fastidious Schuyler, whose wife also entertained her at Albany. General Burgoyne was also entertained at Albany by Mrs. Schuyler during his entire stay there, twenty covers being laid for himself and his friends. Such was Schuyler's return for Burgoyne's despicable act in burning Schuyler's country estate.

Thus ended Burgoyne's famous invasion of America from the Canadas. The fruits of the victory which Schuyler had prepared for and Arnold had fought for had been gathered by Gates, a vain, scheming, selfish man, who was soon spoiled completely by the honours which were showered upon him.

CHAPTER XIV

CAPTURE OF GENERAL PRESCOTT—THE MOVEMENTS OF GENERAL HOWE—BATTLE OF THE BRANDYWINE

WHILE Burgoyne was making his at first victorious sweep from the north through upper New York, Colonel Barton with some Rhode Island militia performed one of those remarkable feats in a small way that did so much throughout the entire Revolution to keep the Americans in heart after their many reverses. He learned that General Prescott, who had command of the British forces in that state, was quartered at a country house about four miles from Newport, carelessly guarded and unsuspecting of any possible danger. With forty men he pulled from Warwick Neck through the ships of war and guard-boats from the mainland to the island, landed quietly, eluded the guard stationed at the house, and captured Prescott in bed. He also captured his aide-de-camp, who made an effort to escape by leaping from a window. Equally successful in eluding the guards on land and guard-boats in the bay on his way back, he returned to the mainland with his prisoners in safety. This gave Washington an officer

of equal rank to exchange for General Lee. Barton was voted a sword by Congress, and he was made a colonel in the regular army.

General Howe, having been anxiously watched by Washington from his encampment at Morristown all the spring, sailed with his army from the port of New York on the 23d of July. Howe took with him thirty-six battalions of British and Hessian troops, a powerful train of artillery, a regiment of light horse and a corps of royalists called the Queen's Rangers. In all he had about seventeen thousand men. He left the command in New York to Sir Henry Clinton, and with him seventeen battalions of infantry and another regiment of light horse. The destination of Howe was for a long time a matter of conjecture. Washington believed, from intelligence that he obtained, that he would make for Philadelphia. At the same time he could not understand why the British general should fail to co-operate with Burgoyne and aid the latter in his invasion of New York. He therefore moved his army at once toward the Delaware and ordered Sullivan and Stirling from Peekskill to the south to reinforce him. Sullivan, however, was later ordered to halt at Morristown to be able to march either south to Washington's assistance or back to defend the Highlands should the latter be attacked. On the 31st of July Washington learned definitely that the British fleet of nearly two hundred and thirty

sail had arrived at the Delaware capes, and he knew at last for certain that Howe's object was Philadelphia. He at once moved to Germantown, a few miles from Philadelphia, and ordered Putnam to hurry on the reinforcements and notify Schuyler and the commanders in the Eastern States that they need not fear Howe, but might turn all their energies to Burgoyne.

It was at this time that Congress gave Gates the command of the northern army over Schuyler, who had been severely criticised by his enemies for St. Clair's failure successfully to defend Ticonderoga. At the same time the ever blundering Congress divided the general commissariat into two departments, one for purchase and the other for distribution. This offended Colonel Trumbull, who had been the commissary-general, and caused his immediate resignation. The ultimate effect of the change was to cause endless confusion in this absolutely necessary branch of the service—a confusion that several times threatened the most serious consequences. While Washington was at Germantown he was frequently in Philadelphia on public business and there met the young Marquis de Lafayette, who had come over from France to fight for American liberty. This famous Frenchman, who was then but twenty-three years of age, had left his noble young bride to share the hard fortunes of the patriots who were struggling for liberty. He offered to serve as a volunteer and at

his own expense. Congress gave him the rank of major-general, but did not give any command. Lafayette and Washington at once became friends, and their lifelong friendship was one of the most beautiful in the history of great men. Lafayette, being without a command, was made a member of Washington's immediate military family. At the same time that Lafayette came from France, a number of other French, German and Polish officers arrived to join the American cause, and among these was the celebrated De Kalb. The presence of these officers was of course welcome, but they were a cause of great trouble; as they expected high office, and to appoint them to such would offend the Americans, who deserved all the promotion they could get, and who did not like to see these foreigners promoted over them.

The militia of Pennsylvania, Delaware and the northern parts of Virginia were now ordered to reinforce Washington. Most of them rendezvoused at Chester and were temporarily put under the command of Wayne. Then Washington moved on to Wilmington at the junction of the Brandywine River and Christiana Creek. On his way he had the army march through Philadelphia itself, down Broad Street and up Chestnut, to give the inhabitants an idea of his strength. There were many Tories in the city and he wished to impress them with the number of his men, and to

give heart to the patriots in the city. Though poorly clad, the army did make a fine impression. No one in Philadelphia had ever seen anything so imposing before. In order to make them look to a certain extent uniform, however, Washington had to resort to the expedient of having the men wear sprigs of green in their hats.

Late in August the British army landed from the fleet in Elk River, at the northern extremity of Chesapeake Bay. They landed near what is now Elkton, about seventy miles from their objective, Philadelphia. They were ten miles further from that city than they were when they were at Brunswick in New Jersey, and the country in which they had to operate was heavily wooded and cut by deep streams. But it was filled with Tories, and that is why Howe chose it for the scene of the campaign rather than the country he had operated in the previous year.

Washington immediately made preparations to check the movements of the British, move stores from the vicinity where they were landing, and especially to move or destroy waggons, horses and cattle, of which the enemy stood in pressing need. The divisions of Generals Greene and Stephen were thrown forward behind White Clay Creek to dispute the advance of the British, and the other divisions which had been refreshing at Chester were hurried on. General Rodney with the Delaware militia was ordered to watch and harass the

enemy, as were the light troops of horse. General Smallwood and Colonel Gist were gathering the Maryland militia in the rear of Howe, and Washington gave Smallwood Rodney's Delaware militia as well. To replace Rodney he formed a corps of light troops composed of one hundred picked men from each brigade and gave the command to General Maxwell. Sullivan now arrived very opportunely from the north with three thousand men.

The foreign officers now began to aid the American cause by their actual services. General Deborre commanded a brigade in Sullivan's division and Conway one in Stirling's. Fleury was with the engineers, and the famous Pulaski took command of the cavalry, which was for the first time becoming an important part of the army. Lafayette as I have told you was with Washington. Light Horse Harry Lee of Virginia, then twenty-two years old, now began the series of exploits that made him famous by capturing twenty-four of the enemy on the 30th of August. Lee was the son of another lady whom Washington had courted unsuccessfully before he married the widow who was now Mrs. Washington. And by the way, Boy, see if you can find out the name of Mrs. Washington when she was a maiden. When you have found it you will know something that not one person in a hundred knows. She is almost always referred to by the name of her first husband. But this mother of "Light Horse Harry"

must have made a deep impression on the heart of Washington, for he used to make rhymes to her and called her his "lowland beauty." For some strange reason neither Napoleon nor Washington was a successful love-maker, and neither of them founded a family in direct line. In fact the great lady-killer of the American army was Aaron Burr, who is despised by almost all Americans in a less degree than Arnold only.

Washington had made up his mind now to risk a general engagement with the British army, a regular pitched battle. His command was as large as, if not larger than, that of Howe. To be sure it was composed of less disciplined troops, many of them militia; but they had had some experience in the many minor engagements they had fought in the preceding two years, and most of their officers were known to be able and brave. It would not do to let Philadelphia fall without a fight; Congress expected it and the public demanded it. Even Europe expected a battle, and it was important to fight one and win if possible; as the French were on the point of making an alliance with America against their inveterate foes the English.

THE BATTLE OF THE BRANDYWINE.

The main body of the American army was now encamped on the east side of Red Clay Creek. The light infantry were in advance at White Clay

Creek, having been driven in about three miles after a severe skirmish on the 3d of September. On the 8th the British advanced in two columns, one against the American front, and the other (the British left) moving up the west side of the creek toward Milltown. Washington immediately suspected that Howe's intention was to get around his right and rear by crossing the Brandywine and getting between Washington and Philadelphia. He made a night march, therefore, and on the evening of the 9th was encamped on high grounds in rear of the Brandywine. Chadd's Ford, the principal ford across the river and on the direct road from the British camp to Philadelphia, was made the centre of the American position; as that was thought to be the object of the next movement of the British. Here Washington stationed Wayne's, Weedon's and Muhlenberg's brigades with Maxwell's light infantry. The two latter brigades, forming General Greene's division, were posted behind the heights as a reserve. Washington made his headquarters with this reserve. Maxwell was thrown across the river on either side of the road leading to the ford. The right wing was commanded by General Sullivan, and was composed of his division and those of Generals Stirling and Stephen. It extended two miles up the Brandywine. The cavalry was thrown across the creek on the extreme right. The left wing was composed of the Pennsylvania militia under General Armstrong.

On the morning of the 11th the enemy advanced toward Chadd's Ford in a great column. Maxwell's light infantry were driven across the river after a sharp skirmish, and a few attempts were made to force the ford, which resulted in continual skirmishing between Maxwell and the British advance guard on both sides of the river, first one side giving way and then the other. In the meantime a terrific cannonade was kept up by both armies. It seemed to be the main attack of the enemy. About noon, however, Sullivan sent word that Howe with a large body of troops and a park of artillery was pushing on past his right, with the evident intention of turning it and gaining his rear. Washington sent a body of horse to discover if this was true and made preparations to attack the troops in front of him, while they were thus detached from Howe. He gave orders for Sullivan to assist, and had they made the attack then as Washington had planned they would have nicely turned the tables on Howe. But just as Sullivan was about to move a militia officer assured him that there were no troops in the vicinity of the fords which it was supposed Howe was going to cross. Sullivan sent this word to Washington, and the contemplated movement, which if it had been successful (as it probably would have been) would have routed Howe's army, was for the time abandoned. This militia officer was one Major Spicer, and to him the blame may be laid

for a defeat instead of a brilliant victory. The defeat would have been more severe than it eventually proved, too, had it not been for a neighbouring farmer by the name of Thomas Cheyney, who rode to Washington himself, his mare covered with foam, to assure the latter that Howe really had crossed the creek above the American right and was now within two miles of it. Washington told him such could not be the case as he had just received information to the contrary. The sturdy farmer, however, persisted that he was right, and offered to stake his life on it. Just then another despatch from Sullivan confirmed the news brought by the farmer. It was then too late for Washington to make his counter-movement on the British centre and left. The mischief was done. It was now necessary for him to make every exertion he could to protect his threatened right. The stratagem that had been employed by the British at the Battle of Long Island had been successfully repeated. It was Knyphausen in front of Washington at Chadd's Ford with but a small division. He had fooled the American commander with a prolonged skirmish and cannonade, while Howe got around to the right and rear. Washington ordered Sullivan therefore to change front to the right, quickly, each brigade attacking as soon as it arrived upon the ground. Wayne was to oppose Knyphausen at the ford and Greene to hold himself in readi-

ness to move wherever needed with the reserve. Sullivan formed his new line in front of an open piece of wood. Cornwallis was in command of Howe's left on ground which he had plenty of time to choose while the Americans were forming their line. But the line was not formed satisfactorily at first. There was too great a distance between the divisions of Sullivan and Stephen. The Americans moved to the right to close this gap and protect their new right flank (the original rear), and while they were thus moving Cornwallis attacked, his troops moving forward in the most perfect order. This changing of position in the immediate presence of the enemy was a mistake often made by our generals in the war of the Revolution.

Sullivan vigorously opposed Cornwallis, but his right and left wings were both broken, only the centre standing firm. It now, being exposed to the whole fire of the British line, eventually gave way, also. In following up their success, however, the enemy got tangled up in the woods, and the Americans had time to form another line on a hill to the north of Dilworth. Here they made another spirited resistance, but were again driven from their position with heavy loss. In the first part of the fight, Lafayette, who had ridden to the right to assist Sullivan, was wounded in the leg and had to retire from the field.

In the meantime Knyphausen assailed the cen-

tre. He was opposed by Wayne and Maxwell. Washington had gone to the right to observe the progress of the fight there. Greene was about to go to the assistance of Wayne at the ford when he received orders from Washington to bring the reserve at once to the support of the right which Washington had found in such imminent peril. Greene's troops made the distance of five miles to the new position of the right in fifty minutes, running all the way. He arrived too late to save the battle but in time to protect the defeated right and save it from annihilation, after its retreat from the height at Dilworth. He made his fight about a mile beyond that town in a position chosen by Washington. The British charged him with great enthusiasm, expecting but little resistance. To their surprise they were driven back time after time. It was a bayonet fight now, and the loss was heavy on both sides. At length Weedon who had been posted in a defile was obliged to join Muhlenberg's brigade on the main road for his own protection against superior numbers. He made the movement in good order, and at length Greene, having successfully covered the retreat of Sullivan's divisions, gradually drew away himself from the superior force of the enemy. As it was late in the afternoon when he did this, the British did not pursue.

Greene's splendid stand had also been a protection to Wayne. The latter had defended the

ford until the approach of British troops on his right told them that the American right had been driven from the field and that he and the left were in danger. He now withdrew by another road to Chester, where he joined the remainder of the army. Knyphausen was fortunately too used up and his men too fatigued to pursue him. And it was well that the British could not pursue, for the Chester roads were now full of the disorganised American army in headlong flight. At Chester, however, there was a deep stream with a bridge over which the fugitives had to pass. The wounded Lafayette set a guard at the bridge to prevent further flight. Washington and Greene with his comparatively successful divisions arrived and some degree of order was restored. The army took post behind Chester for the night.

The news of the battle was received in Philadelphia with consternation by the Whigs and exultation by the numerous Tories. Congress immediately adjourned to Lancaster, giving Washington almost absolute powers for sixty days and for seventy miles around headquarters. It also made Pulaski a brigadier-general of cavalry for his bravery in the action. General Conway also won distinction by his soldierly qualities in the battle. But the French Brigadier Deborre had not done so well. His division was the first to break when Cornwallis made his original attack. He tried to

rally it and was wounded, but Congress ordered a court of inquiry on his conduct. This offended him, and he resigned his commission and returned to France.

Howe made the mistake so often found in the annals of war of not following up his advantage promptly. He remained during the following night and for two days at Dilworth. Lafayette afterwards said that had he "marched directly to Derby, the American army would have been cut up and destroyed. They lost a precious night, and it is perhaps the greatest fault in a war in which they have committed many."

- Washington availed himself of the lack of energy of the enemy, retreated through Derby and across the Schuylkill to Germantown.

CHAPTER XV

SURPRISE AND DEFEAT OF WAYNE—HOWE TAKES PHILADELPHIA — THE BATTLE OF GERMAN- TOWN

WASHINGTON was not disheartened by his defeat, but determined to again seek Howe and give him battle. On the 14th of September he again crossed the Schuylkill, and, advancing along the Lancaster road, tried to turn the left of the enemy. Howe learned of the movement and made a similar attempt to outflank Washington. The armies met near Warren Tavern, but were prevented from fighting by a great rain-storm. This storm seriously inconvenienced the American forces, who were many of them without blankets, or, in fact, any protection from the rain, and rendered their guns almost useless. Consequently Washington gave up his intention of forcing another fight, to the great discontent of many of the civilian leaders in the cause. Washington now retreated to French Creek, at a town called Warwick, where he obtained some muskets and ammunition, and then crossed the Schuylkill and prepared to defend the passage of that river at Parker's Ford. He detached Wayne to get in rear of Howe, join Small-

wood's Marylanders, and watch for an opportunity to cut off Howe's baggage train.

Wayne made a circuitous march, got within three miles of the left wing of the British army, and concealed himself and his division in a wood to await the arrival of Smallwood. All one day Wayne hovered about the enemy's camp, until he became convinced that they were going to remain there. He thought their position an easy one to be attacked, and sent many messengers to Washington, urging the commander-in-chief to hasten forward and attack Howe in his disadvantageous position. Wayne was perfectly confident that his own movements had not been observed and that the secret of his hiding-place was not known. In this he was mistaken. During the night he was surprised by Lord Grey with a strong detachment and taught a lesson that he did not forget for the rest of his life—and one, too, that made him afterwards the most careful general in Washington's army. A countryman brought him intelligence of the advance of the British force against him, but he did not believe the intelligence. He doubled his pickets, however, and ordered his troops to sleep on their arms. It was nearly midnight when his pickets were driven in and his camp attacked at the point of the bayonet, the weapon in which the British so much excelled the Americans, both from long practice in its use and from better equipment. Wayne

took command of the right of his position when the attack was made, in order to cover the retreat of the left, led by Colonel Humpton. But the latter was careless and formed his men in front of their camp-fires, thus throwing them into bold relief. The British rushed at his force with their bayonets, killed and wounded nearly three hundred of his men and drove the rest from their camp and the field. Wayne fired some volleys at the enemy, but they were satisfied with the blow they had struck, and, taking with them some prisoners and Wayne's heavily-laden baggage wagons, retired to their camp. General Smallwood was within a mile of Wayne at the time, but his raw militia fled at the first sight of the enemy.

On the 21st, Howe made a feint by moving rapidly up the Schuylkill. This drew Washington also up the river to protect the military stores at Reading and his own right flank. Then Howe turned on his heel abruptly, made another quick march back to the ford, crossed it, and pushed on for Philadelphia, halting for some days at Germantown. Washington immediately sent to Gates for the return of Morgan's riflemen, whom he had sorely missed, and to Putnam for twenty-five hundred reinforcements. On the 26th Howe entered Philadelphia, sending Cornwallis to take possession of the city. The brilliant display made by the British detachment, with its well-uniformed legions, light dragoons and long trains of artillery

was in great contrast with that made by Washington's army a short time before. The main body of the British army remained in its encampment at Germantown.

After the battle of the Brandywine, Lord Howe, the British admiral, took his fleet from the Chesapeake around into the Delaware Bay, and up the Delaware River as far as he could then go. He anchored along the river from Reedy Island to Newcastle. He was prevented from going further by obstructions placed in the river. These were at Billingsport, protected by a small fort on the New Jersey side, and consisting of a *chevaux-de-frise* in the channel, and, between Forts Mifflin and Mercer, a similar obstruction higher up the river. Washington had thrown small garrisons into these forts, knowing that if the British could not obtain supplies by water he could easily prevent them from doing so by land. Sir William Howe was quite as well aware of the necessity for taking these forts and removing the obstructions in the way of the fleet of his brother, and he detached part of his army to cross into New Jersey and take the forts, beginning with the small one at Billingsport.

Through some intercepted letters which fell into his hands Washington learned of this movement of the enemy, and determined to attack the British in their camp at Germantown while they were thus weakened by the lack of this detach-

ment and by the absence of the troops under Cornwallis who were holding Philadelphia. This he did on the 4th day of October, 1777.

THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN

Germantown was in those days a small town consisting mainly of a double row of houses along the main street, nearly two miles in length. The houses were of stone, low and separated from each other by gardens and orchards. The one large house in the village was at the end furthest from the British camp and about one hundred yards to the east of the road, which ran north and south. At the further end the British camp was divided into two nearly equal parts by the road. Four roads approached the village from the north, running in this neighbourhood nearly parallel. The Skippack was the main road and formed the one street of the town. On its right was the Ridge road, which joined the main road beyond the village. On the left of the main road (the Skippack) was the Limekiln road, which ran parallel to the other and entered it at right angles about the centre of the town. Still further to the left of the main road was the York road, which, like the Ridge road on the extreme right, joined the main road beyond the town.

As I have told you, the British right wing, under General Grant, was to the right or east of

the main road and the left wing to the west. The latter had a battalion of light infantry with a train of artillery stationed in advance, two miles to the west of the main road, and an outlying picket with two guns at Mount Airy.

Washington's plan was for Sullivan, commanding the American right wing, composed of his own division and Wayne's, to march down the main road and attack the British left wing. He was to be supported by Stirling's division as a reserve and flanked by Conway's brigade. General Armstrong, at the same time, was to march down the Ridge road with the Pennsylvania militia and get upon the enemy's left and rear. Greene, commanding the left wing, was to march down the Limekiln road and enter the town at the market-place. He had his own division and Stephen's, and the two were to attack the British right. At the same time, McDougall's brigade was to attack its right flank; while Smallwood, with his Maryland militia, and Forman, with his New Jersey brigade, were to attack the British right in rear, after making a circuit by the York road. Two-thirds of the army, it will be seen, were to attack the British right, and it was expected that they would drive it, and the remainder of the army with it, into the Schuylkill or perhaps compel it to surrender. The battle was faultlessly planned and should have succeeded. Indeed, it did succeed for a time, and the eventual catastrophe was due,

so far as we can understand, almost solely to the weather and a mistake of Knox's.

The army was put in motion on the night of the 3d of October, taking the different roads assigned. It marched all night, making fifteen miles, and emerged from the woods on Chestnut Hill about sunrise on the morning of the 4th. The outlying picket was killed, and the picket guard driven in with the loss of their two six-pounders. The roll of drums announced the British call to arms. Wayne immediately led a charge against the battalion of the 2d infantry, which, as I have told you, was two miles in front of the British camp. The infantry broke, but reformed, again gave way, reformed again, when reinforced by a body of grenadiers, and charged back. They fought bravely for a time and then broke and fled, leaving their artillery in Wayne's hands. His troops pursued with ardour, charging with the bayonet, and, burning with revenge for the slaughter at Brandywine, gave no quarter to the British troops they met. Sullivan and Conway joined in the attack on the west of the road, but the left wing had not yet got into action. It was a morning heavy with fog, and the sun was so obscured that the American troops frequently mistook each other for enemies and fired at each other. The enemy's advance was soon driven from the field. But six companies of the 40th infantry threw themselves into the large stone house

I have spoken of, to the east of the road. This was the house of Judge Chew, who had been chief justice of Pennsylvania before the Revolution. Here they barricaded the doors and ascended to the upper stories, where they defended themselves. The main body of the British passed on up the street pursued by Wayne. The remainder of the division should have followed on after Wayne, paying no attention to the stone house. But being fired on from the house it stopped. General Knox insisted that a garrisoned castle should not be left in rear, an old military maxim, and his objection prevailed. But the house could not be taken, and after losing valuable time, the remainder of the division pressed on, leaving a regiment to guard the house. But the two sections of the division could not be reunited. The fog and smoke rendered objects indistinct at a distance of but thirty yards, the different parts of the army could not tell where the other parts were, and Washington could learn nothing as to what was going on and could therefore give no orders. Still the attack on the centre was successful, though all the flank and rear attacks failed. And Sullivan pushed the left so hard that it gave way.

On the enemy's right, Greene and Stephen, having had to make a circuit, became separated. Stephen also made the mistake of stopping to exchange fire with the British in Chew's house.

Greene pushed on to the market-place, driving a regiment of infantry before him. Here he encountered the right wing of the British army, drawn up in battle order. He charged them so impetuously that they began to waver. At this moment victory seemed about to perch on the American banner. Forman and Smallwood were just coming into action on the extreme right flank of the enemy, and the battle would have been won but for——. Well, no one has ever been able to explain satisfactorily what that “but” was for. A singular panic seized the American army, which has never been accounted for. Sullivan says his men ran out of ammunition. Wayne’s men retreated at the appearance of a large body of troops on its left flank, which it supposed was a division of the enemy, but which was in reality a part of the American army moving to their assistance. Wayne’s officers tried to stop the retreat, but in vain. When Wayne’s retreating troops fell back they came upon Stephen’s division and in turn gave the latter the idea that they were British troops which made that division retreat in panic, and in like manner the whole army fell into confusion and retreated from a victory which it had fairly won. The British now turned upon their pursuers and drove them from the field, and Lord Cornwallis came up with a reinforcement of cavalry from Philadelphia. The Americans, however, managed to get away without losing either

their artillery or wounded, which was mainly owing to Greene, who kept up a retreating fight for five miles, and to Wayne, who checked the pursuit for a time with his cannon. The retreat, however, eventually continued for twenty miles—five miles more than the army had advanced. The loss on both sides was heavy, but the Americans suffered the more. General Agnew was killed on the British side, and General Nash on the American, while Colonel Matthews, of one of the Virginia regiments, was wounded and captured by the enemy.

The loss of a battle was a severe blow to Washington, but singularly enough it had an extremely good effect in Europe. The impression made by what looked like an audacious attack on the British in a position of their own choosing was greater and more favourable than that of any other single battle of the war, with the possible exception of Bunker Hill. And singularly enough the battle had an extremely good effect on the American army itself, after they got over their chagrin at being defeated. They had hardly expected to win in a pitched battle with regulars. Now they saw that they were able to beat the enemy when they tried hard enough, and they learned that they were a good deal swifter in their movements than the British.

The army had retreated to Perkiomen Creek, where it remained for a few days. There Wash-

ington was reinforced by about two thousand Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania troops, and he again advanced toward Philadelphia, taking up a strong position at White Marsh. Here he occupied himself by sending out numerous detachments to cut off supplies from the British army and in preparations for the defence of Forts Mercer and Mifflin. The defences at Billingsport had been taken by the enemy and the obstruction removed. Howe was equally anxious to take these forts and let his brother's ships pass up the river. Fort Mifflin was garrisoned by Marylanders under Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, and Washington put a garrison of regulars into Fort Mercer on the New Jersey shore under the command of Colonel Greene, who had fought with Arnold at Quebec. The obstructions were increased, and floating batteries, fire ships and galleys were added to the defences under the command of Commodore Hazelwood.

CHAPTER XVI

SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE OF FORTS MERCER AND
MIFFLIN—CAPTURE OF FORTS MONTGOMERY
AND CLINTON—THE CONWAY CABAL—CAP-
TURE OF FORTS MERCER AND MIFFLIN—
GATES AT THE HEAD OF THE BOARD OF WAR

COLONEL GREENE, accompanied by a young French volunteer engineer, hastened to put Fort Mercer in a state of defence. Before his outworks were completed, however, he was attacked on the 22d of October by twelve hundred Hessians under Count Donop. The latter sent a flag demanding immediate surrender and threatening no quarter if the fort had to be taken by storm. Greene sent a reply to the effect that he would defend the fort to the last. The Hessians immediately threw up a battery, under which they advanced to the attack in two columns. The galleys and floating batteries under Commodore Hazelwood gave them a terrific flanking fire as they advanced, and for a time there was an equally hot fire from the incompleted outworks of the fort. Greene did not have enough men to man the outworks effectively, however. Accordingly, as prearranged by himself and Duplessis, he

abandoned them at a certain point in the attack and retreated into the strong redoubt within the fort. The Hessians, observing the cessation of the fire, thought the fort already captured and advanced through two entrances. Once well within the fort they were suddenly assailed by a murderous fire of both artillery and small arms; and after suffering great loss were compelled to retreat in confusion again under the fierce fire from Hazelwood's ships. Donop was mortally wounded and captured, dying a few days later, bitterly grieving that his young life had been sacrificed to his own ambition and his sovereign's avarice. Lieutenant-Colonel Mingerode was severely wounded also. In all the Hessians lost about a third of their number in killed and wounded, while the American loss was trivial.

At the same time that Donop attacked Fort Mercer the enemy's ships to the number of six also attacked Fort Mifflin. They managed to force their way through the lower line of *chevaux-de-frise*; but the sixty-gun ship, the *Augusta*, and the sloop *Merlin* ran aground and could not be drawn off. The other vessels opened a hot cannonade upon Fort Mifflin, but could not get within effective distance of it owing to the obstructions. The Americans tried to set fire to the two ships that had run aground by sending down fire-ships, but failed. The next day a red-hot shot set fire to the *Augusta*, and she was im-

mediately abandoned. Before all her crew were taken off, however, she exploded, and some officers and men were killed who had not had time to escape. The *Merlin* was now set on fire and abandoned. Congress presented Greene, Smith and Hazelwood each with a sword and its thanks for their brilliant defence of the fort.

While all this was going on, and while Gates was opposing Burgoyne in the north, Sir Henry Clinton moved up the Hudson on an expedition against the defences of the Highlands. General Clinton had command of Fort Montgomery and his brother James of Fort Clinton. Putnam had command of the troops in the vicinity of Peekskill.

Clinton made a feint first against Putnam at Tarrytown and then another about eight miles below Peekskill. He completely bewildered the old general, who sent in haste to the brothers Clinton for reinforcements. When these had started, Clinton suddenly crossed to the other side of the river and, marching around the Dunderberg, made a rapid march around to the rear of the forts.

General Clinton was not as easily outwitted as Putnam, however. He perceived the meaning of Sir Henry Clinton's manœuvres and in turn sent to Putnam for reinforcements, but the messenger proved traitor and deserted to the enemy. By eight o'clock on the morning of the 16th of

October, Sir Henry Clinton had crossed to Stony Point and marched around the Dunderberg. Here he divided his force. Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell with one column was to attack Fort Montgomery, and at the same time Sir Henry was to attack Fort Clinton. You will see that there were four Clintons prominent in this war,—the Clinton brothers on the American side, Sir Guy Clinton, Governor of Canada, and Sir Henry Clinton, who was making this attack on the American forts. On this day fortune favoured the British Clinton. Both forts were captured after a sturdy resistance, though most of the garrison of each escaped and joined Putnam, who had failed to come to the rescue of the forts, though he plainly heard the firing. He persisted in believing that Fort Independence, which he commanded, and Peekskill were the real objects of the attack. In the attack on the forts a number of prominent British officers were killed, among them Colonel Campbell, who led the attack on Fort Montgomery, Major Grant and Count Gábrowski, a Polish aide on Sir Henry Clinton's staff, who had volunteered in the British cause because of his affection for Lord Rawdon. The next day the obstructions in the river were removed by the British, Forts Independence and Constitution were evacuated (the American frigates and galleys stationed at the obstructions had been set adrift and burned the previous day) and

the Hudson was open for the British ships. It was too late to help Burgoyne, however. He had surrendered.

In the meantime Washington was in for trouble. His failures at the Brandywine and at Germantown had subjected him to criticism. Gates had been triumphant at Saratoga, and, like Lee, had begun scheming against his commander-in-chief. And now there was trouble with Conway, who had developed into a braggart and general mischief-maker. The Baron De Kalb, the grey-haired European veteran who had accompanied Lafayette to America, had been made a major-general by Congress. Conway considered himself slighted by this appointment of De Kalb to a rank higher than his own, and he made an effort in Congress to be promoted himself. This was strongly opposed by Washington, who had taken Conway's measure. Mifflin, the quartermaster-general of the army, supported Conway, and when Conway learned of Washington's opposition to him, he and Mifflin formed a faction to oppose Washington. Mifflin had tendered his resignation to Congress and was devoting his time to intrigues against Washington. Conway joined in the affair so heartily that the alliance of Washington's enemies soon became known as the Conway Cabal. Its main object was to substitute Gates for Washington as commander-in-chief. Gates, intoxicated by his success and delirious with vanity, was perfectly willing to

be boosted by the cabal and no doubt thought it would succeed. He slighted Washington by failing entirely to report his victory to the commander-in-chief, which drew from the latter a dignified rebuke. He sent his pompous aide, Wilkinson, to notify Congress of his victory. The latter delayed so long that the news was old when he reached Congress, and he was deeply disappointed at not making more of a stir in that body. The only notice they took of him was to brevet him brigadier-general after some delay.

About this time Washington learned of the cabal against him, but maintained a dignified silence until he learned definitely of correspondence derogatory to himself between Conway and Gates. He then wrote Conway a short letter quoting the derogatory words. Conway was frightened out of his wits and at once offered his resignation. But the cabal was at work in Congress, and that body would not accept the resignation. Washington now sent Hamilton in person to Gates to obtain reinforcements. As I have already told you, Washington had sent Morgan to the aid of Gates when the latter needed him; but Gates had failed to respond to Washington's order to return Morgan and his riflemen now that they were needed by Washington. Nor did he send reinforcements from his now practically useless army to the aid of the commander-in-chief.

Howe did not give up his attempt to take Forts

Mifflin and Mercer. On the 10th of November he began the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, and on the 16th the fort was reduced after a terrific cannonade from batteries and ships. It was almost levelled to the ground. What was left of the garrison retired during the night. The defence had been so brilliant, however, that Colonel Smith, who commanded it, and Fleury, a French engineer who assisted in the defence, were honored. Howe then sent Cornwallis to undertake the capture of Fort Mercer. Washington tried to reinforce the garrison; but the reinforcements arrived too late, and on the appearance of Cornwallis the fort was abandoned. Just after the abandonment the tardy reinforcements arrived from the north. Had they come sooner the fort might have been saved. Even as it was, it was too late in the season to remove the major part of the obstructions from the river, and the larger ships were prevented from ascending it. Sufficient were cleared away, though, to permit transports to go up to Philadelphia, and thus the main object of the British, that of getting supplies to the city, was accomplished.

Young Hamilton, on his trip north to hurry reinforcements, had encountered Morgan on his way. He stopped to induce Putnam to send on reinforcements. That crusty old general did not want to do so. He had in view an attack on New York which he considered of vast importance.

As a matter of fact Putnam's idea was chimerical, and Hamilton, in the name of the commander-in-chief, had to give Putnam absolute orders before the old warrior would part with his men. Hamilton had even greater difficulty with Gates. He eventually succeeded in inducing the latter to send the brigades of Poor and Patterson to Washington's aid, however.

A number of officers had now resigned from the army in pursuance of the plans of the cabal. These were Conway, Spotswood, Connor, Ross and Mifflin. A number of others were said to be on the point of taking the same action. The cabal was now in fine working order, and Washington was subjected to continual criticism, while the merits of Gates were loudly proclaimed. All Pennsylvania now cried aloud to Washington for a victory. The desolating hand of the enemy was now upon that state. The commander-in-chief himself wished for an engagement. It would, if successful, be of great personal benefit to himself and his prestige in the dark days of the cabal. But Washington was a truly great man, and he could sink his own personal interests for the good of the cause. He knew that even if he could win a victory it would be only by attacking the enemy on his chosen ground and behind his works, and the victory would be won at a frightful cost. Much as he wanted to close the campaign with another battle, therefore, he decided in his own mind not to do

so. He did call a council of war, though, and laid the matter before them. After a long and heated session the council broke up without coming to a decision. Washington asked each general to send in his opinion on the project of an attack upon the city in writing. Four officers voted in favour of it and eleven against it. The idea was therefore abandoned. At this time Lafayette at the head of about four hundred men of Greene's division made an attack on a British picket, killed about twenty men and captured a number more without serious loss. He had not yet recovered from his wound, which made the action on his part still more meritorious. Washington took the opportunity, therefore, to recommend to Congress that he be given the actual command of a division, to which his rank really entitled him. He was therefore assigned to the command of the division of General Stephen, who had been dismissed because of drunkenness at the battle of Germantown.

A change was now made in the Board of War, and Gates was put at the head of it. One of the first acts of the board was to make Conway an inspector-general with the rank of major-general. It was evidently now the intention of the cabal that Gates should become the moving spirit of the war.

Howe was as anxious for a general engagement as Washington was, and, seeing that the latter did

not intend to attack, he made preparations to do so himself. On the 4th of December, therefore, he moved out of his intrenchments in the early evening and during the night advanced towards Washington's line of defences, constantly harassed by light troops that Washington had thrown out for the purpose. The next morning he went into camp about a mile from Washington's right. After reconnoitring throughout the day he next changed his position to a hill about a mile from the American left. After hovering about thus for four days he concluded that Washington's position was too strong to be successfully assailed. Washington's heart beat high with the anticipations of a battle under such favourable circumstances. But he was again doomed to disappointment. On the night of the 8th Howe had a long line of fires lighted in front of his position, and, resorting to a trick he had learned from Washington, hurriedly retreated behind them back to his own position.

Winter was now upon the army. It was worn out, poorly clad and destitute of blankets. There were plenty of clothes in various places, but no transportation to bring them to the army. Mifflin had let the quarter-master's department go to rack and ruin. Since early summer he had been of little aid to Washington.

Lancaster, York and Carlisle were considered by Washington as locations for the winter camp.

But to choose either would be to lay a great tract of fertile, rich farming country open to the depredations of the enemy. For this reason he eventually decided to "hut" at Valley Forge on the west bank of the Schuylkill and about twenty miles from Philadelphia.

It was a cheerless army that marched into winter quarters there. How unlike the situation to that of the previous year! There were no bright achievements to buoy up the soldiers' hopes. Philadelphia had fallen. The men were poorly supplied with clothes, and the food was so scanty that a mutiny was barely avoided. When an alarm was made that the enemy were marching on Chester, Washington's troops declared that they would rather fight than starve. They had been without meat and some also without bread for days. To cap the climax, the Pennsylvania legislature now addressed a remonstrance to Congress against Washington's going into winter quarters. This exhausted the patience of the commander-in-chief, and he, on his part, addressed a letter to Congress, disclosing the actual condition of the army and the necessity not only for its remaining in winter quarters but for supplying it properly with food and clothes. Congress saw the point, permitted him to remain at Valley Forge, and gave him authority to forage on the surrounding country. He did this reluctantly. The country about him was peopled with friends

to the cause, and he feared the effects of such a move as plundering upon the morale of his army. Bitter necessity alone compelled him to adopt the measure. The army could not be permitted to starve. Such were the closing scenes of 1777. It was Washington's hardest year, and the winter at Valley Forge witnessed the army's greatest suffering.

CHAPTER XVII

EXPOSURE OF THE CONWAY CABAL—CONSTERNATION OF GATES—STEUBEN AT VALLEY FORGE—DOWNFALL OF CONWAY—THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY WITH FRANCE—HOWE SUPERSEDED BY CLINTON—THE MISCHIANZA

WHILE Washington was in all this trouble Gates had become the popular idol. If he had been a strong man Washington would have had much to fear from this. But he had merely become weakened by his new-found glory. His friends were flatterers seeking their own advancement through his, and they urged him to take his seat at the head of the Board of War and save the country.

But just as he thought he was secure in his new-found glory came an unexpected blow which filled him with dismay. Part of the contents of another letter from Conway to Gates was repeated to Washington. Gates did not learn of this from the commander-in-chief. The latter maintained a dignified silence. Gates heard of the matter through correspondence with Mifflin. As a matter of fact the recent correspondence with Conway had been of a nature that would destroy

Gates if it had all or even the most important parts of it come to the ears of Washington. Mifflin's letter did not state just what Washington knew. Indeed the members of the cabal were all in doubt as to what Washington did and did not know. That was the difficulty. In consternation Gates wrote a long letter to Washington in which he practically acknowledged maintaining a correspondence derogatory to the latter. His object seemed to be mainly to find out who had been the traitor in his camp and punish him. He did not seem to think it possible that he could effect a reconciliation with the commander-in-chief. And here, for some strange reason, Gates made a singular blunder. He sent a copy of his letter to Washington to Congress. He supposed that Washington knew everything, and he was preparing to defend himself as best he could.

Washington made a dignified reply to Gates, telling him that all he knew was that Conway had written a letter to him (Gates), in which he had said "Heaven has been determined to save your country, or a weak general and bad counsellors would have ruined it." This was actually all that Washington knew, but the letter of Gates had made it perfectly evident that there had been much more to the correspondence. Washington now told Gates that this extract from Conway's letter had been communicated by Wilkinson,

Gates' toady and aide-de-camp, to General Stirling's aide, Major McWilliams. Washington told Gates that as the information had come from his aide-de-camp he considered that it had been communicated as a friendly act to forewarn the commander-in-chief of a dangerous enemy. As Gates had sent his letter in duplicate to Congress, Washington sent his reply in the same manner to that body, and the result was that the whole country soon knew of the cabal against Washington, or at least the part played in it by Conway.

Gates now thought he was secure. He tried to explain away the matter and in doing so mixed matters up in such a way that Washington could not fail to see that Gates was not telling the truth, and that there was back of the matter an intrigue against him in which Gates had a prominent part. He compared the two letters from Gates, analysed them for the benefit of the writer and gave the results in a freezing letter which he again laid before Congress.

The cabal now sought a scapegoat and decided upon Wilkinson as the sufferer. He was removed from Gates' staff and otherwise humiliated. Burning with resentment, Wilkinson challenged both Gates and Stirling to duels, but both were prevented. Wilkinson's career, however, was practically closed with the incident. Out of the matter too came real good. Washington's friends in Congress and the public in general were put on

their guard, and the danger from the cabal was at an end.

The cabal did not die without an expiring effort, however. It sought to wean Lafayette from his allegiance to the commander-in-chief. For this purpose he was offered the command of an expedition to invade Canada during the winter by the Board of War. The expedition had been planned without being referred to Washington, and Lafayette, angered at the apparent snub to his idol, was for declining the command without thanks. But Washington persuaded him to take it. Conway was to be second in command and to be the real head of affairs. But Lafayette would not have this and insisted that De Kalb be made second in command. His request was reluctantly granted. The cabal did not find Lafayette so easy to handle as they imagined. On this account probably they relaxed their efforts, and the campaign was abandoned after Lafayette and Conway had arrived at Albany, where the force for it was to rendezvous.

Washington now undertook the formation of a new system for his army and the reformation of the abuses which had brought it to such a critical condition. But the reforms were slow in going into operation, and the distress of the army continued to increase. They were half naked and half starving in their hut encampment, or more properly village, at Valley Forge. They did not even have sufficient straw to sleep on.

Sickness spread in the camp, there were no medicines for the sick and not even forage enough for the horses, which died of starvation. Yet the men stuck to Washington and the fortunes of their country with a degree of fortitude and patience that was absolutely sublime.

In Philadelphia the British army was faring in a very opposite manner. They had plenty to eat, drink and wear. The inhabitants had to suffer of course, as provisions and fuel were dear on account of the investment of the place by Washington, which, incomplete and weak as it was, yet prevented the people and the enemy from drawing on the surrounding country for supplies. Gambling and riotous living of every description were indulged in by the officers to the great horror of the inhabitants, many of whom were Quakers. One of the posts of American troops which guarded the country was commanded by "Light Horse Harry" Lee. He was attacked by a party of the enemy which greatly outnumbered his own force, but he defended himself so skilfully that he drove the enemy away with severe loss and saved his own men and even his horses. This so pleased Washington that the son of his "lowland beauty" was made a major and put in command of a squadron.

In the latter part of February, 1778, the celebrated Baron Steuben arrived at Valley Forge, having been induced to give up his military employments in Europe and join the American cause

by Franklin and Deane, the envoys in Paris. He was a scientifically trained soldier and a splendid disciplinarian. He immediately took charge of the drills and inspections of the army and before the ensuing campaign had it well drilled in field manœuvres of which heretofore they had been totally ignorant, officers as well as men. He was a hotheaded old fellow and scolded the men roundly in every language of which he was master (of which the English language was not one).

Nevertheless he became a great favourite with the men, and his constant inspections of their arms, clothing and quarters soon made their life more tolerable. Matters now began to brighten. Greene was made quartermaster-general, though still retaining his rank in the regular army. By his wonderful exertions the army was put in excellent condition and ready to take the field and move rapidly the moment it should be found necessary.

Congress, the body of blunderers, now turned to Washington's side again overwhelmingly and made Gates and Conway understand distinctly that they were at all times under the immediate orders of the commander-in-chief. Conway had been left at Albany, when Lafayette and De Kalb left after the failure of the Canadian project. From there he was ordered to join the army under McDougall at Fishkill. He was soon ordered back to Albany, however, and this fired his anger. He wrote to Congress a petulant letter in which

he protested against what he called a "burlesque disgrace" and declared that "his honour would not permit him to stand it." Congress, glad of a chance to get rid of him, considered this tantamount to a resignation and promptly accepted the same. This was not at all to Conway's liking, and he endeavoured without success to have the acceptance revoked. He made the mistake now of venting his spite on Washington and in consequence was challenged to a duel by General Cadwalader, one of Washington's staunchest supporters. Conway was wounded in the duel and nearly died from the effects of the wound. To the surprise of every one he recovered and went back to Europe. On the 6th of May, Steuben was made a major-general and inspector-general in Conway's place.

On May 2d a treaty was signed with France, by which the independence of the United States was recognised by the older country, and the two became allies in the war with Great Britain. This induced parliament to pass some measures called the "Conciliatory Bills" and to send a committee to America to endeavour to arrange affairs with what England still called "her colonies." If these bills had been passed before the war began we might still be colonies of England, but now they were too late. Congress and the people paid no attention to them except to say that they would treat with England when the latter country withdrew her troops and ships from America and

acknowledged the independence of the States. The committee and the bills were both a burlesque, and none came to realise the fact sooner than the committee itself, which soon gave up in disgust the attempt to conciliate the Americans. The committee, as a last resort, tried to bribe Washington and other influential Americans, of course without success. For the purpose they needed an influential man to lay the matter before these "prominent Americans," and they boldly offered General Reed ten thousand pounds and any office in the colonies in the king's gift to be their emissary. To their offer Reed made his celebrated reply which every schoolboy in the land knows. "I am not worth buying," said Reed, "but such as I am the King of England is not rich enough to buy me." As a last resort the committee issued a manifesto offering to treat with the deputies from all or any of the colonies. No attention was paid to it. Lord Carlisle wrote to a friend :

"I enclose you our manifesto, which you will never read.—'Tis a sort of dying speech of the commission.—Everything is great upon this continent. The rivers are immense; the climate violent in heat and cold; the prospects magnificent; the thunder and lightning tremendous. We have nothing on a great scale with us but our blunders, our misconduct, our ruin, our losses, our disgraces, our misfortunes——"

Poor General Howe was held accountable for

these "losses, ruins, disgraces and misfortunes," and he was relieved of the command of the British army. When he departed a great fête was held in his honour, however, called the *Mischianza*. It consisted of a regatta, tournament and pageant. It was the silliest kind of affair and quite out of place in an army which, with superior numbers, had been cooped up all winter in the city by the "old Continentals in their ragged regimentals." There were triumphal arches and a gorgeous avenue lined with the colours of all the regiments in the British army. There were also a number of officers dressed as "Knights of the Blended Rose" and "Knights of the Burning Mountain," to say nothing of fourteen beautiful damsels dressed in Turkish fashion. Major André was one of the projectors of this effeminate entertainment and figured in it as one of the "Blended Rose" dandies. In a letter to a lady friend he declared that his participation in the affair had made him a "complete milliner" and offered to buy her supplies in that line. He was a fair specimen of the British chivalry of the time and one of the leaders in the dissipations that had shocked the staid old inhabitants of Philadelphia. He was afterwards hung as a spy.

Sir Henry Clinton was put in command of Howe's army, and all Americans were delighted at the change. They knew Clinton and his methods better than the English did, and they knew him to be an easier man to defeat than Howe.

Soon after Clinton took command of the British army, Washington observed what he considered symptoms of an intention on the part of the enemy to evacuate Philadelphia. Howe had made a serious raid through the Jerseys, also. To watch the British in the city, therefore, and to guard the Jerseys, he sent Lafayette with about twenty-one hundred men across the Schuylkill to a point about half-way between Valley Forge and the city. Clinton received intelligence of this and sent General Grant with about five thousand men to surprise and capture Lafayette and his command. They nearly succeeded, too; but by employing the ruse worked so frequently in this war of pretending to defend a camp which he was really deserting as fast as his troops could march Lafayette escaped with the loss of but few men.

The long delayed exchange of General Prescott for General Lee now took place, the British at last giving up their claim that Lee was a deserter from their own service. Ethan Allen was at the same time exchanged for Colonel Campbell. Lee resumed his office as second in command and was soon as arrogant as ever. Allen was brevetted colonel and remained for some time at Valley Forge, where he was a subject of great interest on account of his captivity and sufferings. He soon left for his Vermont home, however, and did not again take up arms in behalf of the colonies.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE EVACUATION OF PHILADELPHIA—THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH—CLINTON'S RETREAT TO NEW YORK — COURT-MARTIAL OF GENERAL LEE

THE British delayed long about evacuating Philadelphia. It was not until June that it was apparent that the total evacuation was about to take place, and not until the 18th of that month that it actually did occur. The signs pointed to a march through the Jerseys to New York for the British army, and Washington considered the advisability of pursuing them and making them fight. He laid the plan before his officers, most of whom were in favour of it. It was strongly opposed, however, by Lee. He declared that he would pave their way with gold if they would only return to New York, and he did not believe the army was strong enough to risk a battle. Was Lee still jealous of any success that Washington might win? Was he still aspiring to the office of commander-in-chief, in Washington's place? It would appear so. But Washington thoroughly understood Lee, and in a polite manner admonished him not to indulge in his cynical criticisms

to the extent he formerly had. As a matter of fact, Lee was beginning to talk too much in his old way.

But Washington no longer had the great regard for Lee's opinions that he formerly had. Greene, Lafayette, Wayne and Cadwalader, all tried friends of Washington, believed with him in the advisability of forcing Clinton to fight.

Clinton evacuated Philadelphia with great secrecy, commencing the movement across the Schuylkill at three in the morning. By ten o'clock his rear-guard was safely over. Washington sent Maxwell with his brigade to co-operate with General Dickinson and the New Jersey militia to harass Clinton on his march, and followed after the retreating enemy with the remainder of the army, though he sent Arnold with a small force to occupy the city, as Arnold had not yet recovered from his wound. Clinton marched along the eastern bank of the Delaware as far as Trenton, and Washington had to make a detour to the crossing place, where he had been that winter night, a year and a half before, when he fell upon Trenton. Washington suspected that Clinton wished to draw him into the open country for an engagement, and held another council of war. Influenced by Lee, the council agreed by a majority vote that it would be better to follow Clinton at a distance. Clinton moved towards Brunswick, with the intention of embarking on the Raritan

for New York. He saw that he would be opposed there by Washington's detached forces and probably also by Gates, who was now marching down from the north. He turned abruptly to the right, therefore, and made for Sandy Hook, with the intention of embarking at the latter place. Washington at once penetrated his design. He sent Wayne with a thousand men to reinforce the advance corps, which now numbered about four thousand men. The advance should have been commanded by Lee, as senior major-general. Lafayette desired it, however, and Lee was easily prevailed on to relinquish the command in his favour. Lee did not think he would suit carrying out orders with which he did not agree. He soon afterward repented of his decision and wished the command back again. He saw it was going to be the most important in the army. Washington was in some perplexity as to the matter of satisfying Lee, without wounding the feelings of Lafayette. He solved the difficulty by still further increasing the command and sending Lee with the reinforcements. This put Lee in command, as he was the senior. Washington also explained matters to Lafayette. It proved to be a costly substitution, and the mistake of superseding Lafayette lost the battle of Monmouth. It was the evening of the 27th of June when Lee regained the command of the advance. That night Clinton encamped on high ground at Monmouth Court-

House. Lee, with the advance, was five miles distant at Englishtown. Washington rode forward and reconnoitered the position of the enemy. It was protected by woods and morasses and too strong to be attacked with much hope of success. But if they were permitted to go on they would secure ground still more favourable for defence. He resolved, therefore, to attack Clinton's rear as soon as the head of the British column was put in motion. He gave orders for Lee to be ready to make this movement and sent out Generals Dickinson and Morgan to lie near the enemy's lines and see whether the English would endeavour to evacuate their camp during the night.

THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

The British vanguard, under Knyphausen, began moving early on the morning of the 28th. Dickinson informed Washington, and the latter ordered Lee to attack, unless there should be extraordinary reasons for not doing so, and he told Lee that he would immediately come on to his support with the main body. The main part of the British army waited for its long train of wagons to pull out before moving. Lee advanced with the brigades of Wayne and Maxwell. The troops under Dickinson and Morgan were already skirmishing with the British rear-guard. Lee moved slowly, as the country was cut up by woods

and morasses and difficult to move in. He was soon joined, therefore, by Lafayette, with the main body of the advance. When he reached the heights of Freehold, he rode forward to reconnoitre and descried what he thought was a detachment of the enemy, which he determined to cut off. To accomplish this he had Wayne skirmish in its rear, while he, with the main body, made a short cut through the woods to cut it off. He was so certain of accomplishing his object that he wrote Washington a note assuring him of success. The movement made by Lee had been observed by Clinton, who turned about, and Lee brought up face to face with the whole rear division of the British army. He tried to form his troops for action. His artillery opened, and his skirmishers repulsed an attack by the light horse. His orders do not seem to have been made with much clearness, however. At any rate they were misunderstood. Mistakes were made, and one regiment after another fell back, until Lee's whole advance was in full retreat before an inferior force. Nor did he make any effort to check the retreat or send notice of it to Washington.

The commander-in-chief was, of course, with the main body and rapidly advancing to Lee's support. The booming of cannon told him that the attack had commenced, and he pressed on with still more ardor. At Freehold the road forked. He sent Greene by one road to flank the enemy, while he

went forward by the other. While giving these directions a farmer rode up and told him his advance was retreating. An American soldier, coming back in breathless haste and in a fine fright, corroborated the farmer. Amazed and incensed Washington sprang on his horse and galloped to the front. On his way he soon met the fugitives returning from the field. He began to see that the news was only too true. He soon met two regiments in full and disorderly retreat. Washington was informed by their colonels that the whole corps was in retreat. Still Washington could hardly believe them. There had been little firing and he had received no notice of the retreat from Lee. Soon several columns of Lee's force were observed also in retreat. Colonel Shreve of one of the regiments assured Washington that the whole corps was in full retreat—why he did not know, as there had been but a slight skirmish with the enemy's horse. The other officers of this regiment were in a state of mind similar to that of their colonel. One declared that they were flying from a shadow.

Washington was now thoroughly exasperated. He rode forward and soon met Lee. He angrily asked Lee what the meaning of the retreat and disorder was. He had already formed the opinion that Lee had retreated on purpose to upset the plans which had been adopted without his concurrence, and although Washington seems to have

jumped at the conclusion, which was something unusual with him, he was probably right. Washington's anger was terrible, and Lee was so disconcerted that he hesitated in his reply. This angered Washington still more, and again he thundered his question at Lee. His manner stung Lee more than his words. He made an angry reply, and Washington used still stronger expressions. Lee tried to explain that his troops had been thrown into confusion, by disobedience of orders among his inferiors and by the meddling and blundering of others. He declared further, however, and in apparent contradiction of the foregoing explanation, that he did not think it prudent to face the whole British army with his small detachment. Washington informed him that he had certain information that it was but a strong covering detachment of the enemy. Lee answered that at any rate it was larger than his own. Washington taunted Lee with unwillingness to go into the fight. Lee said he did not think it prudent to bring on a general engagement. Washington replied that the matter had not been left to his opinion and that he had failed to obey orders.

The enemy were now within a short distance of the army, and Washington promptly made arrangements to retrieve the ground lost. The troops were rallied on the high ground where they now stood, and the artillery was placed on their flank and on a hill to support them. By this Washington

hoped to check the enemy while he formed the main body on a height in the rear. Washington's anger had cooled somewhat now, and he left Lee in command on the height, the latter declaring that he would not be the first to leave in case he was driven back. Washington now brought on the main body and formed it on a height with a wood in rear and a morass in front. Greene commanded the right wing and Stirling the left. Lee maintained his position, fighting gamely, but was eventually driven back. He formed behind the morass; but the men were exhausted by the fighting, marching and countermarching, and Washington ordered him and his men to Englishtown to collect the fugitives.

The English advanced under a hot artillery fire and tried to turn the left flank of the American army. They were repulsed by Stirling and then tried to turn the right flank where they were driven back with severe loss by Greene, his batteries getting an enfilading fire on part of the attacking force. They suffered greatly, too, from the fire of Wayne's men, who were somewhat sheltered in an advanced position by an orchard and a barn. Colonel Monckton with a regiment of grenadiers now tried to drive Wayne from his well-chosen spot at the point of the bayonet. But Wayne reserved the fire of his men until the enemy were almost upon them. A terrific volley then killed Monckton and slaughtered his troops, who were

repulsed. The whole British force now retreated to the ground occupied by Lee in the morning. Washington was about to renew the battle and attack them in this position in turn when the day drew to a close. The army lay in position all night on their arms, in order to be ready to make the attack in the morning.

In the morning, however, the discovery was made that the entire British army had retreated during the night, leaving a number of their wounded to be cared for by the Americans. As they had started early in the night they were too far on their way to be followed successfully by Washington's tired troops in such hot weather. The roads too were deep and sandy; there was little drinking water; and the country was such that a small force of the enemy could at any time hold the whole American army in check while the remainder pressed on. This was especially the case near the point of embarkation. The pursuit was therefore abandoned. The American loss was about eighty killed and double that number wounded. Among the killed were Colonel Bonner and Major Dickinson.

The British loss was much more severe, and, as I have told you, the gallant Monckton was killed while making his charge on Wayne. Washington now detached General Maxwell with his brigade and Morgan with his riflemen to hang on the enemy's rear and harass them, while he, with the

main army, pushed on to the Hudson, by the way of Brunswick.

Washington camped near Brunswick, to give his army a much needed rest, and despatched young Lieutenant-colonel Aaron Burr on a reconnoitring expedition. The latter sent spies into New York and others to various points on the Hudson to watch the enemy, and especially the enemy's shipping, for the purpose of learning at once of any intended movement of the enemy, who, Washington supposed, might be meditating an attack on the defences recently constructed on the Hudson.

Clinton arrived at Sandy Hook on the 30th of June, having lost nearly two thousand men during his march through the Jerseys by desertion. Most of these were Hessians. The fleet of Lord Howe arrived at the Hook on the 5th of July and conveyed Clinton's troops to Staten Island, Long Island and New York City.

Lee asked for a court-martial on his conduct during the battle, and the favour was promptly granted to him. Washington made three charges against him of disobedience of orders, misbehaviour before the enemy and disrespect to the commander-in-chief. The court-martial found him guilty of all three of the charges, and he was sentenced to be suspended from command for one year.

Lee now followed the example set by Conway

and abused Washington in outrageous terms, both in his correspondence and by word of mouth. This brought him a challenge from Colonel Laurens of Washington's staff, and in the duel Lee was wounded in the side. He then retired to his estate. His sentence was almost completed when he heard that Congress contemplated relieving him from command. This angered him so that he wrote an insolent note to that body, which, though it made many mistakes, did not permit its own dignity to be assailed. Congress, therefore, promptly dismissed Lee from the service. He lived on his estate for some time. But it was sadly mismanaged, and he made a trip to Philadelphia to dispose of it. The journey was too much for him, and he was taken while there with a fever, from the effects of which he died. He was an eccentric, impatient, ambitious man. But he was honourable, and had no part in the intrigues against Washington, being an open and avowed enemy of the latter rather than a secret one. He served the cause of the country very faithfully and was buried with high military honours.

CHAPTER XIX

TARDY ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH FLEET—EX-
PEDITION AGAINST NEWPORT—THE FLEETS
DISPERSED BY A STORM—SULLIVAN'S DISAP-
POINTMENT AND RETREAT—THE WYOMING
VALLEY MASSACRE—MURDER AND PILLAGE
BY THE BRITISH

MATTERS began to look very well now for the young United States. The British had been driven into New York, and, beyond holding a few seaports, had done little or nothing toward the successful subjugation of the land of our birth.

“It is not a little pleasing,” wrote Washington from his headquarters at White Plains, “that after two years’ manœuvring and undergoing the strangest vicissitudes that perhaps ever attended any one contest since the creation, both armies are brought back to the very point they set out from; and that the offending army at the beginning is now reduced to the use of the spade and pick-axe for defence. The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he need be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge the obligations.”

It is seldom that we find Washington in so satisfied a mood. He was one of the class of men who seem to have lived but to overcome apparently unsurmountable obstacles. The history of America has been made by such men. And even then, at the brightest moment in the war since the British had fled from Boston, a keen disappointment was hovering over the land.

The French fleet arrived—just too late to cut off the British in their retreat to New York. It consisted of twelve line of battle-ships and half as many frigates, and it brought Mons. Gerard, the French minister to the United States, and a land force of four thousand men. It had been almost three months in crossing the ocean from Toulon, a trip that would be made to-day in but little over a week.

The tardy French commander, the Count d'Estaing, sent a highly flattering message to Washington and started the French minister off to Philadelphia. He then proceeded north along the coast, only to find the British fleet, under Lord Howe, safely anchored inside of Sandy Hook. Here the Count determined to fight the British fleet, to which his own force was superior, and Washington was to co-operate against New York with his army. Both the French and Americans were exultant, while the English had the mortification of seeing, for the first time, an English fleet blocked up in its own harbour. But

when the American pilots went aboard the great French battle-ships they found that the largest ones drew too much water to pass over the bar. The cup of joy that D'Estaing was raising to Washington's lips was dashed to the ground.

The French fleet now undertook the capture of Newport, Rhode Island. General Sullivan commanded the American forces at Providence, and he was ordered by Washington to co-operate. The latter also reinforced Sullivan with two brigades under the Marquis Lafayette. General Greene was also sent to help Sullivan, as he was a native of the island upon which Newport is situated and had great influence with the people.

General Pigott commanded the British force of about six thousand men on the island. His main defence was a line of intrenchments across it, about three miles from the town. The French fleet was to force its way into the harbour and the Americans to approach simultaneously by land. On the 10th of August the troops were to land from the ships and the Americans to cross to the island. The French commander was a stickler for precedence. At the approach of the allies, the British evacuated their intrenchments in front of Sullivan, in fear of being cut off. Sullivan, seeing the works abandoned, naturally enough crossed on the 9th to take possession of them. Sullivan's proceeding a day ahead of the appointed time offended D'Estaing, who had strict

notions of the proprieties. He made ready to co-operate, eventually. But before he commenced operations his lookouts discovered the English fleet, under Lord Howe, sailing in to the rescue of the town. They were still inferior to the French fleet in numbers. Nevertheless, they had been reinforced and gallantly went to the assistance of their comrades at Newport.

Had Lord Howe been as prompt as he was gallant he would, with little doubt, have destroyed or captured the French fleet ; as the wind was greatly in his favour and dead against the French fleet. This was a matter of the greatest importance in the days of sailing vessels. The English ships would have been able to manœuvre without difficulty, while the French ships could only have been handled at all with the greatest difficulty, and would have been exposed to the fire of the land batteries. The British anchored, however, outside the harbour during the night, and D'Estaing at once took advantage of the Briton's blunder to sail out of the harbour. The British ships now formed in line of battle, but avoided a conflict in their turn. The wind had changed, and the French now had the advantage. Both fleets now manœuvred, the British to avoid a fight until they had the weather-gage, the French to force a fight while they still retained it. And as they manœuvred they gradually drew away from the Rhode Island shore until

they were lost to sight. And before the actual contest began a great storm scattered the ships of both fleets and disabled them. When it subsided, the English bore away to New York for repairs, and the French returned to Newport, but in no condition to fight.

While these events were happening in the East, the British in the West were inciting the Indians against the Americans. There was a British garrison at Niagara, and in that noted spot most of the trouble arose. Brant, the Indian murderer, had fled there after he and his English allies had been driven from Fort Schuyler; and there he and a number of Tories projected the savage invasion of the peaceful Wyoming Valley, along the Susquehanna river.

This expedition was started in June, being composed of Colonel John Butler's Rangers, Johnson's Royal Greens and Brant and his Indian braves. They murdered and destroyed as they advanced, for a time unchecked. Washington had started reinforcements to the defence of the Valley; but the farmers had already united for protection under the command of Colonel Zebulon Butler. The patriot Butler with more zeal than wisdom determined to push on and attack the marauding Butler at his headquarters at Fort Wintermoot, without waiting for the reinforcements. In consequence he was terribly defeated there and the greater part of his force massacred

by the Indians and Tories. That settled the fate of the Valley. It was then defenceless. Farms were laid waste, the houses and barns burned, and their owners murdered. The remaining inhabitants of the fertile tract, some five thousand in number, were driven in consternation to neighbouring settlements more capable of defence. Many of the Tory marauders had been neighbours and often close kinsmen of the unhappy sufferers, and the relationship instead of inciting them to pity merely led them to more horrible atrocities. The whole affair was one of the most barbarous outrages that ever sullied the pages of English history.

In the meantime the British in New York were performing similar feats whenever the opportunity came to them. The same General Grey who was sent by Clinton against the Connecticut ports surprised a body of dragoons under Colonel Baylor in Old Tappan. The dragoons were asleep in a barn, and Grey slaughtered them while they were naked and defenceless and crying for mercy. A few were taken prisoners by virtue of the entreaties of a British officer who seems to have been built too delicately for cold-blooded murder. The majority, however, were bayoneted, some receiving as many as sixteen bayonet thrusts.

About the same time three hundred regular British troops, under the lead of another blood-letter, by the name of Ferguson (a captain)

sacked and burned Little Egg Harbor. They went after privateers which they did not get. So they burnt the salt works, storehouses and private dwellings of the people. Before he returned Captain Ferguson had another opportunity to distinguish himself in his peculiar way. He learned of a small body of American infantry lying but twelve miles distant from him. He attacked them in the night with about two hundred and fifty men. He took five prisoners. That is to say, he slew the rest as they wakened from their sleep. As a pirate or a slave trader Captain Ferguson would have been a towering success. But as a soldier under a soldier's flag he is a lasting shame to the English people.

We may have more respect for the Hessians under Donop who laid waste the country between Tarrytown and Dobb's Ferry on the Hudson. They at any rate were not making war on their own flesh and blood. Throughout the British occupation of New York and its vicinity the Hessian hirelings of all breeds added every horror they could to the evils of war. But they were, like the Indians, less morally guilty than the English who hired them. We can feel especially sympathetic with these Hessians of Donop's command as Colonel Richard Butler and Major Henry Lee took them by surprise soon after. The Americans killed but ten however, which is no unusual proportion.

Throughout the remainder of the war these dastardly acts of the British were continued, and their only real successes, with a few exceptions, were in pillage of the peaceful and the murder of the defenceless. And the English government invariably rewarded the pillagers and murderers. Colonel Grey, for instance, was made Lord Howick and eventually Earl Grey for his wholesale murders. But if anything were needed to make the Americans more determined to secure their independence, these acts would have accomplished the purpose better than any others. They effectually sundered every tie of affection for England that might have remained in the hearts of Americans and made eventual independence a necessity.

CHAPTER XX

THE BRITISH IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA—STORMING OF STONY POINT—SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION AGAINST THE WYOMING VALLEY MURDERERS—FURTHER MARAUDS—SIEGE AND SURRENDER OF CHARLESTON—MARAUDS OF TARLETON AND FERGUSON

AT the very end of the year 1778 the English succeeded without much difficulty in capturing Savannah and overrunning Georgia. They had failed to conquer New England. They had been driven from the Middle States. They were now to attempt the subjugation of the South, and at first they succeeded very well. The southern colonists had not yet been roused to great exertions in order to save their homes, and the main army had been concentrated under Washington in the North and must of necessity remain there. Florida fell with Georgia, and the British thereupon turned toward South Carolina. General Lincoln was therefore hurried from the North to Charleston to put it in a state of defence.

Washington and his army wintered in New Jersey, watching the British in New York, and in 1779 little was accomplished in the northern

army on either side. In the middle of July, General "Mad Anthony" Wayne stormed Stony Point on the Hudson and took it at the point of the bayonet. It was a night attack, such as the British were fond of making; but even the British had to acknowledge that not one man was put to death save in "fair combat." The American loss was fifteen killed and eighty-three wounded. The British lost sixty-three killed, while five hundred and fifty-three were taken prisoners. A friendly negro guided the advance picket of the Americans to the English sentinels. Two of these were captured without the firing of a shot. The Americans, therefore, managed to get to the very outworks of the fort without giving cause for alarm. The attack was made in two columns each preceded by between a hundred and a hundred and fifty men. One of these advance columns was commanded by Colonel Fleury, the other by Major Stewart. These formed two vanguards on either side of the fort for the main body of the troops, which charged in after them. Each vanguard was preceded by a forlorn hope of ten men, and these forlorn hopes lost the greater number of the American killed. Wayne himself was wounded at the head of his troops.

Washington found that the fort would require too large a garrison to be held to advantage, and it was consequently evacuated three days after its capture. It was the most brilliant surprise of the

war, however, and one of the most successful in history.

A little later during the summer, General Sullivan led an expedition of three thousand men, against the Indians and Tories who had laid waste the Wyoming Valley. They were reinforced by two thousand New-Yorkers under General James Clinton. At Newton, Butler, Johnson and the Indian Brant opposed Sullivan's army but were easily beaten. This was late in August. Sullivan then pushed on destroying the Indian country, orchards, fields of corn, gardens, houses, in fact everything that was of value to them. The Indians fled with their families to the protection of the British at Fort Niagara. To look at it to-day, it seems like a rather heartless procedure, but it was necessary to starve the Indians out of the country to prevent a repetition of the Wyoming massacre. This was Sullivan's last achievement, as ill-health soon compelled him to retire from the army.

The British during this year accomplished but little in the North, though they had in New York city an army superior to Washington's. They had campaigned against him in the Jerseys to their heart's content and wanted no more of it. Nearly all they accomplished was in the marauding line. In May, General Mathews ravaged a part of Virginia, burning or destroying everything that fell into his hands.

In July, Clinton sent General Tryon (the former Tory Governor of New York), with a force of twenty-five hundred men to ravage Connecticut. Tryon landed with his force near New Haven and promptly took and plundered that town. From there he went to Fairfield. Here he destroyed everything of value, including the vessels in the harbour, and burned the town to the ground. At Norwalk his acts were not quite so atrocious. That is to say some private property was spared. In addition to the destruction at these places his soldiers indulged in all the kinds of disorder known to soldiers. Tryon was about to turn his attention to New London, when Washington's activity gave alarm to Clinton, and the expedition was recalled.

Then Major Henry Lee of Virginia took a hand at retaliation of a legitimate kind, by descending upon Paulus Hook and capturing part of the British garrison and bringing them off. In other places, however, the Americans were unsuccessful. General Lovel failed completely in an attempt to capture a British fort at a point on the Bay of Penobscot, which had been established to hold the Maine forests for the king. And Lincoln and D'Estaing failed to recapture Savannah, late in the autumn. After three weeks of fruitless siege operations at the latter place, Lincoln and D'Estaing put themselves at the head of their respective bodies and tried to take the place

by assault. They were repulsed with great loss. D'Estaing was wounded, and Count Pulaski was killed. Sergeant Jasper, the hero of Fort Moultrie, also lost his life there.

Lincoln now retreated into the Carolinas. Washington went into winter quarters at Morristown. And Sir Henry Clinton, accompanied by Lord Cornwallis, set sail the day after Christmas for the capture of Charleston and the subjugation of the Carolinas. He left the Hessian General Knyphausen in command at New York. The latter distinguished himself by continuing the policy of Clinton as to raiding and marauding. At Elizabethtown a church was burned in which a patriot preacher of great eloquence had officiated. The Rev. James Caldwell was the preacher. He was with the army and was an object of particular hatred to the Royalists. They regretted that he was not in the pulpit when the church was burning, and they took other measures of an even more painful character later to wreak their hatred on him. Another of Knyphausen's expeditions was made against Young's House, a fortified American outpost near White Plains. Here the usual massacre took place, although about ninety prisoners were taken, to suffer in the prison ships in the harbor of New York.

About the same time (the latter part of January) Clinton neared Charleston, S.C., after a tempestuous and lengthy voyage. He had lost

the cavalry horses of his dragoons, but their commander soon mounted them again. This commander was the famous, or rather infamous, Tarleton, who was to prove such a terror to the Southern States. He was a fit associate of Grey, Tryon and the rest of the British raiders. When he had remounted his dragoons with horses taken by force from friends and enemies alike, Clinton proceeded by easy stages to Charleston, having landed at St. John's Island.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Lincoln, after the retreat from Savannah, had proceeded to Charleston and had taken command there. As Clinton approached he bent his energies to fortifying the city. Lincoln preferred to remain with his small army in the open country ; but at the earnest solicitation of the inhabitants, and especially of Governor Rutledge, he finally consented to remain and defend the town, although the prospect of its capture, and with it his army, was far from remote. Rutledge, on his part, called out the militia of the State, and reinforcements were expected from the North. Lincoln was disappointed by both. He was to be still further disappointed. Commodore Whipple, who commanded the few vessels of the young American navy stationed at Charleston, found that he had not been correctly informed as to the

depth of water in the harbor, and would not be able to defend the passage of the English ships under Admiral Arbuthnot. This laid the water front open, with protection only from Fort Moultrie and Whipple's ships anchored alongside of it.

On the 12th of March Clinton appeared before Charleston and commenced the siege, though the investment was not completed for some time. Lincoln could, therefore, have escaped even after the discovery of the weakness on the water side. It was Washington's opinion, too, that he should have evacuated the city. But he bravely remained at his post to make the best defence he could. Washington ordered De Kalb with the Maryland troops to the aid of Lincoln, but it was hardly considered possible that he would arrive in time. On the other hand, Clinton was promptly reinforced by sea by Lord Rawdon with twenty-five hundred fresh troops from New York. Still further troops came to the British commander from Savannah, though not without some brushes with the militia. And here began the operations of the celebrated partisan bands under Colonels Washington, Marion and Sumter that make a large part of the history of the American army in the Carolinas. In fact Colonel Washington soon had an encounter with Tarleton that was partially successful.

But Charleston was doomed. The enlistments

of many of the militia in Lincoln's army expired, and the militiamen went to their homes. On the 7th of April, however, Lincoln was reinforced by some seven hundred Virginians under General Woodford. With the reinforcements, Lincoln's little army numbered about four thousand.

The English Admiral had little difficulty in passing Fort Moultrie, and the garrison evacuated it. The British lines closed about the town. Before they did so, Governor Rutledge and half of the executive council of the state left the city in an effort to rouse the people of the state to come to the city's relief. They failed in their mission, however, and the investment was soon thereafter completed. On the 12th of May the city of Charleston surrendered.

During the siege Tarleton with his dragoons and Major Ferguson with his riflemen made a forced march to Monk's Corner and surprised the patriot General Huger's camp there, killing or capturing nearly the entire force. Major Ferguson seems to have been of a finer character than most of his associates. At Monk's Corner a number of dragoons broke into a dwelling and maltreated some ladies who had sought shelter there. If Ferguson had had his way he would have put the dragoons to death. His superior, Colonel Webster, arrived, however, and the dragoons escaped with a whipping.

Clinton now considered South Carolina sub-

jugated and prepared to leave, personally, for New York. He projected several expeditions into the interior, though, before he went. The most important of these was headed by Cornwallis, and with it went Tarleton. It had for its object a corps of Virginia troops under Colonel Buford which had been advancing to reinforce Lincoln, but which was now retreating. Tarleton, with Cornwallis' advance, overtook Buford on the banks of the Waxhaw. The attack was a surprise, and the usual massacre followed. One hundred and thirteen were killed on the spot and a greater number so mangled that they could not be moved. This after they had thrown down their arms and cried for quarter. But fifty prisoners could be carried away from the scene of the butchery. There was no excuse for such slaughter. There were but five killed and fifteen wounded on the English side. For this heartless blood-letting Cornwallis recommended Tarleton to the king for high honours. We do not learn, however, that he was made an Earl.

CHAPTER XXI

ARNOLD'S DIFFICULTIES—HIS MARRIAGE—INVESTIGATED BY A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS—COURT-MARTIALLED—HIS TREASONABLE CORRESPONDENCE WITH CLINTON—ARNOLD AND ANDRÉ—CAPTURE OF ANDRÉ AND FLIGHT OF ARNOLD—EXECUTION OF ANDRÉ—STORY OF NATHAN HALE

WE must now take notice of a man to whose personal bravery we have often referred, but who proved to be merely a fighting animal with a very low grade of moral or spiritual being. If warfare brought out nothing but the good in man there would be more excuse for it than there is. But the worst of warfare, Boy, is the fact that it brings out too much of what appears to be good in bad men. Common brute lust for fighting masquerades as bravery, insensibility to danger as courage, and what is worse selfish ambition as patriotism. Some men who have most deeply cursed their country in all times have hewed their way to power sword in hand. Now and then there is an exception. Washington and Grant were such. But the world is still supplied with would-be Napoleons and with people only too ready to

acclaim them rulers. For one Washington in warfare there are a hundred Tarletons or Greys, and there is also a plentiful supply of Benedict Arnolds.

In 1778 Arnold, still suffering from the wound he had received at Bemis Heights, was placed in command of Philadelphia. He still had the sincere regard of Washington; but he was in trouble with Congress, owing to the fact that his accounts had not yet been settled. Some of his items of expenditure had been considered exorbitant by the committee, and he was suspected of an ambition to become wealthy by any means that lay in his power. Under these circumstances it was a very unfortunate thing for Arnold that he was placed in command of the city where Congress was holding its sittings, and which was the seat of government. There had always been continual clashing between the army and the civil government. And Arnold, being already at odds with Congress, could hardly have been expected to get along well in such a position. He lived very expensively, kept running into debt and was accused of fraudulently using the power of his position to obtain money to meet his obligations. All roads lead to ruin when a man has once started in that direction. He had not been long in Philadelphia before he began courting a beautiful young lady, Miss Margaret Shippen. Under ordinary circumstances a love-affair might have

made him popular. But, unfortunately, the young lady's family was suspected of Tory proclivities. She herself had been a favourite with the British officers when they had occupied the city; and she had even been one of the characters in the celebrated *Mischianza*.

One thing led to another, until charges were preferred against Arnold and sent to Congress. A committee investigated the charges and reported to Congress, exculpating him. Arnold thought his name cleared, resigned his command at Philadelphia and hastened his marriage to Miss Shippen. But Congress, instead of adopting the report of the committee, asked Washington to refer the charges to a court-martial. Arnold's disappointment and anger at this proceeding can be imagined. He still suffered in heart from the belief that Congress had not done him full justice in the matter of promotion, and he now had a further cause of complaint.

The eight charges were reduced to two, and on the 12th of February, 1780, the court-martial found that while he had been guilty of no fraudulent act, his proceedings had been "irregular, and contrary to one of the articles of war." He was sentenced to be reprimanded by the commander-in-chief. The reprimand was as gentle and kindly as Washington could compose. But Arnold was stung to the quick. He was still heavily in debt; his accounts were still unsettled;

he needed the money he claimed to be due him to pay the debts; and he had just been married. He was also disappointed at not being permitted to make an expedition at sea, which he claimed he could carry through, though his wounds still prevented him from active duty on land. He eventually obtained a leave of absence for the summer.

From the time that the court-martial found him guilty in part of the charges preferred against him, Arnold is known to have begun to plot treason against his country. Whether he had begun before or not is still a matter of doubt, though it is known that Major John André, the adjutant-general of the British Army, had corresponded before this with Arnold's young wife.

He began by writing letters to Sir Henry Clinton in a disguised hand and over the signature of Gustavus. He claimed to be a man of importance in the American army, and said he was dissatisfied with recent proceedings of Congress, especially with regard to the treaty with France. To prove that he was what he claimed to be, he occasionally gave Clinton certain information regarding the movements of the American troops, which, of course, proved to be true. He let Clinton understand that he would be willing to betray his country if the English government would pay a sufficient consideration. And he wanted considerably more than the sum paid

to Judas. On the part of Clinton the correspondence was conducted by his adjutant-general, the same John André.

When Clinton eventually learned who his correspondent was, he hardly deemed it worth while to buy Arnold's treason. He could then obtain nothing but the traitor's services, and they were worth little indeed to the British commander. It became necessary, therefore, for Arnold to obtain command of some place of importance that the British wanted and would pay liberally for. This place was eventually decided to be the fortifications at West Point, on the Hudson, which had so long been an object of anxiety to Washington.

Arnold obtained the command he coveted in August, and made his headquarters at Beverley, below the fort, and on the opposite side of the river. This was the country seat of Colonel Beverley Robinson, a Tory then with the British and in their service in New York. Here the scheme was hatched. Washington and the allied French were to be drawn away from West Point; a flotilla was to ascend the Hudson, carrying a large land force; and Arnold was to surrender the Highlands with little or no opposition, on the pretence of having an insufficient force to make a successful resistance. It was expected that this would dismember the Union and break the whole American military plan.

To consummate the bargain André finally went up the Hudson to a point where the British sloop of war *Vulture* was anchored, and proceeded thence to meet Arnold on land. It was ostensibly to be his mission to negotiate for the security of Colonel Beverley Robinson's property. The two conspirators met about six miles below Stony Point, on the western shore of the river. It was midnight when they met, and at early dawn the proceedings had not been completed. Arnold, therefore, prevailed upon André to remain on shore another day. Accordingly they repaired to a farmhouse, where, after breakfast, the plans were finally agreed upon and the price settled which Arnold was to receive for his treachery. But André was now within the American lines. The first interview had been on territory without both lines.

From the moment the miserable compact was sealed André was unfortunate. Arnold furnished him with plans of the fortifications which were placed in André's stockings. He also gave André a pass to enable him to go through the American lines. In the meantime the *Vulture* had been fired upon by cannon from the banks and compelled to drop down the river. Arnold went back to his headquarters about ten o'clock, and poor André had to remain in the farmhouse the remainder of the day, already wondering whether he would be able to regain the *Vulture* with

safety. He had risked a great deal, but he expected to be made a brigadier-general in the British army if he succeeded in his enterprise. But he risked more than he thought, for it had not yet occurred to him that he was within the American lines, practically in disguise and therefore a spy. And he proceeded to make his position still worse by removing all that remained of his uniform and putting on the garb of a farmer. About sunset he and a guide crossed the river to Verplanck's Point and proceeded in the direction of White Plains. They managed to pass through one patrol by the use of Arnold's authority, but were warned of the danger of proceeding far into the neutral territory between the two armies, as they were overrun by marauders of every description. They therefore put up at a farmhouse for the remainder of the night. In the early morning they proceeded on their journey. About two miles from the Croton River the guide turned back, and André went on alone. Six miles further on he came to a fork in the roads. He had intended to take the left-hand road toward White Plains but finally decided to take the other toward the Hudson, which was a more direct route to New York. Here he made another mistake. A few minutes later a man stepped out from the trees that lined the road and stopped him with a levelled musket. But André supposed he belonged to the British side and foolishly announced that

he was a British officer. In the meantime the first sentry was joined by two others. They were a small picket. But they were not of the party to which André supposed they were. You will remember, Boy, that Young's House in this neighbourhood had been sacked and burned and its defenders murdered. That had aroused the resistance of the inhabitants of that part of the neutral ground, and they had sprung to arms to defend their homes. They turned out in small parties to intercept straggling British soldiers. One small party of seven had divided, four taking post at Sleepy Hollow, and three, on this road to New York that André was travelling. And these three men were John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart and David Williams. They had captured a man, too, of far more importance than any of the freebooters they were looking for. And John Paulding had escaped but four days before from a foul British prison in New York. While there his uniform had been taken from him, and he had been given some old clothes of a refugee. These clothes had deceived André. The latter was astonished and dismayed to find that he was in the hands of patriots, but he tried to pass the matter off, declared that he had but pretended to be a British officer in order to pass what he supposed were British lines, and showed Arnold's pass. This would have saved him had he not made the mistake of declaring himself to be a British of-

ficer. But the suspicions of the three men were aroused, and they searched him. They were about to let him go even then, when Paulding declared that he would not be satisfied until André's boots had been searched. The British adjutant-general protested. The patriots insisted. As a result the concealed papers were discovered. Paulding glanced at them and, somewhat horror-stricken himself, declared that André was a spy.

André now tried to buy himself free, at last declaring that he would pay any price that his captors demanded. But Paulding answered that he should not stir one step though he paid them ten thousand guineas, and the three men set off with their unfortunate prisoner to the nearest American post.

The news of André's capture flashed through the American army, and as soon as it was known so, too, was the treason of Arnold. Unfortunately the commander of the post to which André was brought promptly notified Arnold, and the traitor made his escape.

Every intercession was made for André to secure his release. He was a great favourite in the English army and a man of fine education and attainments. But he was found guilty of being a spy, was sentenced to be hanged and was executed on the 2d day of October. One proposition alone would have secured André's release. Washington would undoubtedly have traded him

for Arnold, but British honour could hardly consent to that. Arnold joined the British army and remained in it, though it is but justice to the English to say that they despised him to the day of his death, almost as deeply as his countrymen have execrated him. He failed to deliver West Point into the hands of his countrymen's enemies, the British lost an able officer and obtained a bad one. And the fate of André has at least served to bring into greater prominence (though not as much as it deserves) the bitter fate and patriotic services of Nathan Hale.

Hale was a young Connecticut school-teacher, a graduate of Yale college, who was studying for the ministry. He joined the army on the news of the battle of Lexington. "A sense of duty," he wrote his father, "urges me to sacrifice everything for my country." He served with Washington before Boston, became a captain in the Connecticut militia and, when Washington needed the services of a person competent to enter the British lines and secure information of the enemy's movements, Hale volunteered. He had secured his information and made plans of the enemy's works, and was returning to meet a boat which was to take him to the mainland when he fell a victim to a mistake not unlike André's. He mistook a boat from a British man-of-war for the boat that had been sent to convey him, was arrested, tried and hanged. His treatment at the

hands of his British captors was totally unlike that which André received. The latter was treated with the greatest consideration and excited the pity of the whole American army. But Hale was treated with great brutality, refused the consolation of a Bible, and the letter which he wrote as a last word to his mother was destroyed by the infamous provost marshal in order "that the rebels should never know that they had a man who could die with such firmness." Hale's dying words were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." For many years the fate of André excited more sympathy in American breasts than the fate of the brave Hale. But Time has changed all that. To-day we realise that André, after all, was engaged in a dastardly enterprise, and well deserved the fate that was meted out to him.

CHAPTER XXII.

KNYPHAUSEN'S INVASION OF NEW JERSEY—
THE MURDER OF MRS. CALDWELL—KNY-
PHAUSEN'S SECOND ATTEMPT—GATES AP-
POINTED TO COMMAND THE SOUTHERN
ARMY—SUMTER AND MARION—THE BATTLE
OF CAMDEN.

WASHINGTON learned of the loss of Charleston and the return of Sir Henry Clinton to New York at about the same time (June 1st). He surmised, with of course considerable apprehension, that Clinton's success would stir the pulse of the British in New York and make them more energetic and aggressive than they had been for a considerable time. His great fears were for West Point. This stronghold of the Hudson protected the communication between the New England States and the rest of the confederacy. With it lost, the colonies would be cut almost in twain. Nothing shows Washington's military sagacity more clearly than this continual fear of his that the Highlands of the Hudson, natural fortifications as they are, might be wrested from him. That they never were was due to his unceasing vigilance. The English were quite aware of their

importance. If they had been held when Burgoyne invaded New York that general might have succeeded.

Clinton, however, made no campaign against the Highland fortresses. His eye was still jealously cast in the direction of the Jerseys. The British had been repeatedly driven out of this state. The victorious Clinton wished to retrieve the past defeats of the army he commanded.

On the 5th of June Knyphausen made a dash from Staten Island to Elizabethtown Point with five thousand men. As they advanced to Elizabethtown, a solitary American sentinel stationed at a meeting point of two roads discharged his musket at them. The single shot struck General Sterling, who led Knyphausen's advance, and mortally wounded him.

Colonel Dayton, who commanded the American troops in the town, was too weak to cope with the advancing British and retired. As he retired signal guns, fires and galloping couriers aroused the country. At Connecticut Farms, Dayton was joined by the Jersey brigade under General Maxwell, and the two made a stand. They were soon obliged to retreat again, though, as the British were reinforced and brought their artillery into play.

The invaders had been angered by the opposition to their march, and they proceeded to wreak their vengeance on the defenceless in true British

style. They set fire to the houses of the town and murdered the wife of the Reverend James Caldwell, whose church at Elizabethtown they had burned the preceding January. He himself was away with the regiment of which he was chaplain.

Knyphausen now pressed on to Morristown after the retreating Americans. But as the Americans retreated they were being constantly reinforced by the rising countrymen, and they were retreating straight on to Washington's army. Knyphausen got almost to Springfield before he discovered what he was going against. He at once turned around and retreated during the ensuing night to his starting-point. The next day the Americans followed, and at Connecticut Farms, the Reverend James Caldwell found his wife a corpse. The news spread abroad through the land and aroused a feeling of horror and indignation almost equal to that aroused by the murder of Miss Jane McCrea. Like every other act of British cruelty, it but aroused the country to a more determined stand against their oppressors.

Later in June, Clinton embarked his troops again on their transports. Washington feared that the movement was to be against West Point, and with part of his army started in that direction. He moved slowly and cautiously, however. The embarkation was but a feint, and on the 23d he learned that Knyphausen had once more moved

from Elizabethtown, this time with the intention of taking Morristown and destroying the military stores there. Knyphausen's advance was retarded by Major Lee on the Vauxhall road, by Colonel Dayton on the main road, and by Colonels Angel and Shreve at two bridges across the Rahway River, Greene, with the main army left by Washington, being stationed in the Short Hills about a mile from Springfield.

Lee made a sharp fight on the Vauxhall road and retreated. Dayton made an equally gallant resistance. With him was the Reverend Mr. Caldwell, whose wife had been murdered such a short time before. He was maddened at her fate. When the Jersey regiment, to which he was attached, needed wadding for their guns he rode to the Presbyterian Church and brought a quantity of Watts' hymn-books from it, which he distributed for wadding. "Now, boys," cried he, "put Watts into them."

Colonel Angel, at the first bridge over the Rahway, had the fiercest of the fighting. Both his loss and that of the enemy opposed to him were great. Compelled to retire, he did so in good order to the bridge where Colonel Shreve was stationed. Here another stand was made. Both were driven eventually, however, back on the main body. Greene awaited the British attack with confidence. But the enemy had had enough fighting in the continual attack on the American advance.

Knyphausen saw that to reach Morristown would probably result in the eventual capture of himself and his command. He, therefore, wisely retreated. He was just in time. Washington had despatched a brigade from his command to the aid of Greene, and Knyphausen would have been overwhelmed. The British left their usual calling card at Springfield before they left. They burned the place to the ground. All the way back to Elizabethtown they were closely pursued, losing a quantity of stores and some prisoners. Indeed they were glad to make their escape back to New York.

That short campaign ended the British endeavours to conquer New Jersey. From that time on, the much enduring state was practically free from them.

The war, however, was being prosecuted, and its evils felt, in another direction. We have seen how Charleston was captured and General Lincoln and his army with it. The militia of the southern states was being rapidly organised, and De Kalb was still advancing towards Charleston. Cornwallis and his subordinates, in the meantime, were overrunning the country. A new commanding officer was necessary to the southern army. It had been Washington's intention to recommend General Greene to the post. But the friends of Gates were too quick for him, and before Washington's recommendation could reach Philadelphia

Congress had appointed Gates to the command of the southern army of defence. This general jumped at the chance to add to the laurels he had won in his victories over Burgoyne. Unfortunately, in this instance, he had no Schuyler to prepare the way to victory. Indeed before he left his estates in Virginia he received a sinister warning from his old associate in intrigue, Lee. "Beware," said Lee, "that your northern laurels do not change to southern willows." Gates proceeded on his journey to anticipated victory undismayed, and after he had started Washington received the first division of welcome reinforcements from the French under the Count de Rochambeau. Lafayette had been successful in his pleading with the French king to send another fleet and army to the succour of the struggling states.

Cornwallis was pressing on in his determination to conquer North Carolina and add it to the other subdued southern states. He had a harder nut to crack than he thought. He was going among a people whose ancestors had had a long experience in dealing with invaders. North Carolina was populated largely by a race of Scotch-Irish extraction, and they had given their royal governors more trouble in colonial days than the people of any other colony. They were by far the most independent of any. When they saw that they were to be invaded by the conquering Briton they

prepared to make trouble. The state, too, presented many physical obstacles to successful invasion. It contained wild mountains, deep forests and treacherous rivers that were seldom bridged because ordinarily they were fordable. But they were liable to be swollen to raging torrents by sudden storms. These were the defensive strength of the country, and Lord Cornwallis was all unaware of them.

The personal leader of the North Carolinians was Thomas Sumter, an old Indian fighter whom they loved to call the "Game Cock." In the Continental army he had been a lieutenant-colonel of riflemen. Along the coast the state is low and swampy and vegetation so thick that it was full of hidden fastnesses. When Charleston fell Sumter had secreted himself and family in one of these. From it he sallied forth whenever the opportunity presented with whatever small force he could collect to surprise and harry small detachments of the enemy. His purpose accomplished he would retire with equal despatch to his fastness and be as completely lost to the bewildered British as though the earth had swallowed him. Like unto him was Francis Marion, who, you will remember, was at the battle of Fort Moultrie. Marion was known to the English as "The Swamp Fox of the Carolinas." The names of these two men soon became more of a terror to the British and Tories than even that of Tarle-

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ton to the patriots. At Hanging Rock in August, Sumter, with a particularly large force, for him, of about six hundred men, fell upon the British, nearly annihilated the Prince of Wales regiment and scattered and routed a large force of Tories that were acting with it.

De Kalb in the meantime had been stopped at Deep River on the 6th of July, his provisions having given out. General Caswell, with the North Carolina militia, was on the Pedee, and De Kalb was endeavouring to join them and the small remainder of the defenders of Charleston who had escaped capture. The country between them was sterile, however, and De Kalb was compelled to stop and forage for supplies. He was about to make a detour through the more fertile counties when Gates arrived on the 25th.

Gates, burning to accomplish much in little time, gave orders for an immediate advance through the sterile country. He declared that provisions in plenty were but a few days' march behind. On the 27th the army started and suffered severely in consequence of Gates' lack of foresight. On the third of August, however, Gates was joined by a small body of regulars under Lieutenant-colonel Porterfield, and on the 7th made his junction with Caswell. On the 13th of the month, Cornwallis and Gates were but twelve miles apart, the British being at Camden. The British force was about two thousand. That

of Gates was about a thousand more, but most of them were raw militia. And of this force Gates sent Colonel Woolford and a hundred regulars, together with some field-pieces to aid Sumter in that enterprising partisan's attempt to capture a large British convoy. On the evening of the 15th Gates pushed on about seven miles to attack the British should they attempt to interfere with Sumter. And on the same evening, by a singular coincidence, the British moved forward to attack Gates on the next day. And of this intention of the English Gates was blissfully unaware, for he had made little or no effort to scout the country in front of him.

THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN.

The two forces blundered on to each other about two o'clock on the morning of the 16th. A skirmish immediately ensued between the two advance guards. Both forces then halted, formed for action and waited for daylight. Gates was astonished to learn from a few prisoners his advance had captured that he was in the immediate presence of Cornwallis, and the prisoners led him to believe that the force of the enemy was considerably larger than it was. Dumfounded he called a council of war and asked what was to be done. There was nothing now to do but fight, however. Arrangements were accordingly made.

The Maryland division, led by De Kalb, was on the right of the American line, the Virginia militia on the left and Caswell's North Carolina militia in the centre. The artillery was in the road, and a brigade of the regulars were held in reserve.

The British attacked at daybreak. They charged, firing and shouting, and the inexperienced militia were dismayed. They came upon the left first. Stevens tried to control his men, but he was unsuccessful. His militia threw down their loaded muskets and fled. The panic spread. The North Carolina militia made a short stand, but were soon in headlong flight, pursued by Tarleton and his cavalry. Gates and his staff tried to rally the militia, but failed. The day was hazy ; smoke hung about the field of battle. Gates supposed the regulars had fled with the militia and gave up all for lost. He retreated with the rest.

But the regulars had not fled. Not knowing that they were deserted, they steadfastly held their ground, rallying whenever broken and driving back the bayonet charges. Tarleton, however, finally charged them on the flank and drove them in confusion into the woods and swamps. Unfortunately the brave De Kalb fell, pierced by eleven wounds, and his aide De Buysson was wounded a number of times by the merciless red-coats while supporting the wounded general in his arms. At last they were taken prisoners, having experienced less mercy than if they had

fallen into the hands of cannibals. He died a few days later.

Poor Gates had planned to rally his fugitives and make a stand at his previous camp, but before he reached it he had been deserted by all save his generals and his and their aides. His mortification may be imagined. Lee's warning had proved a prediction. And to make matters worse Sumter had been completely successful in capturing the convoy. But Tarleton was sent by Cornwallis after Sumter and came upon him by surprise on the Wateree, capturing his camp. Indeed Sumter barely escaped with but three hundred and fifty of his men. Gates and Caswell proceeded with the broken remnants of the army to Charlotte, and from there to Hillsborough, a hundred and eighty miles from Camden, where he finally stopped. Of his army there remained now but a thousand regulars. The militia had one and all dispersed to their homes.

Washington, when he heard of the disaster, immediately took what steps he could to get the southern states to raise a sufficient force of regular troops to at least hold the enemy in check. He had no hope of driving them out of the Carolinas until he received further help from abroad. To Gates, in the hour of the latter's humiliation, he wrote a touching letter of sympathy and unbroken confidence. It was far beneath Washington to rejoice at the misfortunes of the man who

had been so long his bitter enemy and would-be rival. There are times when, contemplating the heroic character of the great commander-in-chief, we almost lose sight of his subordinates and feel like exclaiming, "After all, there was but one Hero of the Revolution." And we may be forgiven a sigh if we compare the petty, squabbling, jealous rivalry for power of the pretended great men of our own day to so sublime a figure. To-day a man would seek the Presidency of the United States on the reputation of one of Washington's troop captains. We are long past our heroic age.

CHAPTER XXIII

CORNWALLIS' ADVANCE INTO NORTH CAROLINA
—THE BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN—SUM-
TER VS. TARLETON—THE BATTLE OF THE
COWPENS

CORNWALLIS having so thoroughly beaten Gates fancied that he had mastered the rebels in South Carolina, and that North Carolina awaited but his advent to yield submission. He remained at Camden a short time to collect supplies and give his armies a rest before proceeding to Charlotte. He little dreamed that the campaign he had opened so gloriously for the English cause was to end in bitter defeat, and was to result eventually in the complete overthrow of royal authority in the colonies.

Before proceeding further he detached Major Ferguson, a royalist, with his partisan corps, to the mountains in the western part of the state to compel the submission of the people and to aid local royalists in annoying the beaten army that Gates was endeavouring to reorganise. He was to operate between the Catawba and the Yadkin, and eventually rejoin Cornwallis at Charlotte.

While Cornwallis waited he hanged a number

of prisoners taken at Camden who were found to have British protections in their pockets. They were strung up without trial and almost without formal proceedings of any kind. Slaughter has always been deemed by the British an apt method of making a good and loyal colonist.

When Cornwallis moved on and established himself at Charlotte he soon learned to call the place the "Hornet's Nest of the Carolinas." The country was so sparsely settled that it could not be foraged to advantage. His scouting parties were continually waylaid by the inhabitants. His convoys of provisions from Camden had to be well guarded on the road or they were captured, and few got through even then without a running fight. What was worse, his messengers were shot or captured and their despatches taken. The latter was particularly annoying, as he could learn nothing of the movements of Ferguson.

The latter was about to move towards Charlotte, according to his orders, when he learned of a small American force retreating to the mountains from an expedition against Augusta. He determined to capture it. He supposed that the country about was too thinly inhabited to oppose him. He stopped at Gilbert-town, a small place on the frontier of the state. But his maraud had roused the backwoodsmen to the defence of their homes. And they were all trained Indian fighters. A large force suddenly gathered about him.

They were composed of Kentuckians, led by Colonels Campbell and Boone, of Carolinians, commanded by Colonel Williams, and of Virginians, under the command of Colonels Cleveland, Shelby and Sevier. Three thousand gathered about him. Ferguson thought better of his project of capturing Americans and pushed for the British army, as Cornwallis had instructed. But he was too late, and was destined never again to see the British commander. Nor could he even communicate with Cornwallis, as his expresses were one and all captured or killed.

The American frontiersmen and woodsmen followed in haste on his trail, travelling night and day in the clear October weather. They soon brought Ferguson to bay at King's Mountain, a detached promontory in the foot-hills, which had sloping sides, well wooded and well-adapted to defence. It was a position that Ferguson considered invulnerable, and he had no thought of defeat.

The Americans attacked him in three equal divisions on three sides of the mountain.

THE BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

Ferguson had deployed his command on the top of the mountain. Of the Americans, Campbell and Shelby led the centre of the attack. Sevier and McDowell were on the right, and

Cleveland and Williams on the left, both of these latter divisions acting as flanking columns. The Americans were without military discipline. Once in the fight they were to act as individuals after the manner of Indian warfare. They were unprovided with bayonets and if charged were to retire stubbornly, but not too far, and as soon as the charge ceased were to return to the attack.

Campbell allowed time for the flanking divisions to get ahead and then pushed up the mountain. His divisions drove in Ferguson's pickets about four o'clock in the afternoon. As soon as they came within rifle distance of the crest of the mountain the English opened with a tremendous volley. The Americans immediately sought the shelter of the trees and opened a deadly rifle fire, practically all of them being sharpshooters.

Ferguson could not stand this fire and ordered a bayonet charge down the mountain. It was a fatal mistake. The centre gave way slowly, and he seemed to be on the point of victory when one of the flanking divisions opened on him. He had to change front and charge this. No sooner was he partially successful in his charge upon this than the other flanking division opened on him, while the centre came back to the attack in front. So the battle went on. He charged first one and then the other only to be slaughtered by the divisions that were at rest. The ground, too, was better suited to rifle firing than to bayonets, and

as the British were above the Americans they were not exposed to their own cross fire. At length Ferguson was surrounded. He fought doggedly until he himself was hit, when his second in command waved a white flag and surrendered. The British lost one hundred and fifty killed and more than that wounded. There were but twenty Americans killed and a proportionate number wounded. Colonel Williams, however, was among the killed, so that each side lost a leading officer. Eight hundred or more prisoners were taken, and some of the royalists were hung in revenge for the hanging Cornwallis had indulged in at Camden. The royalists, however, were at least tried by court-martial.

Unfortunately for the American cause the mountaineers and frontiersmen who fought this battle had no appreciation of its importance and at once went their several ways. If they had maintained their organization they could have given Cornwallis a deal of trouble. As it was they had read Cornwallis such a lesson that he feared a rising in South Carolina and the overthrow of the royal authority in his rear. He therefore turned tail on the 14th of October and hastened back to Winnsborough with such haste that he lost twenty waggons in his first day's march with all their contents.

This victory raised the partisan spirit throughout the Carolinas. Marion and his famous men

were soon dashing through the country, a varying force in strength but ever the same in spirit. He operated between the Pedee and Black rivers, and after striking a blow would disappear into the swamps. Sometimes he even charged almost up to the gates of Charleston, and he was continually cutting the British communications with that city. Tarleton tried to bag the swamp "fox," but Marion was too crafty for him, avoided a regular engagement and continued his exploits.

At the same time that Marion was at work between the Black and Pedee rivers, Sumter appeared on the Santee, captured a British outpost, crossed the Broad river and menaced the British post at Ninety-six. Tarleton was called off from Marion to oppose Sumter. The latter made for the Tyger river, but was overtaken by Tarleton's advance on the 20th of November. It was too late to cross, and Sumter hastily improvised a fort out of a log barn and determined to make a stand. Tarleton with his advance awaited the arrival of his main body. Sumter seized the opportunity to take the offensive and charged himself. The charge was repulsed, and Tarleton charged in turn. But he too was repulsed by the fire from the log-barn and was obliged to retire and await his reinforcements. Night fell, and during it Sumter made the difficult passage of the river and his forces dispersed into the swamps. He himself, being wounded, was carried off by some of

his nearer friends on a litter swung between two horses.

On the retreat of Cornwallis, Gates moved with the remnants of his army to Charlotte, and on the 2d of December General Greene arrived at that place and took command, superseding Gates, who retired to his Virginia estates.

Greene set about making an army out of the rabble that Gates had lost all command of. And he found the task a difficult one. But he made himself liked, and he took such prompt and effective measures that he won the love of his subordinates, and military discipline began to return.

Greene divided his command, on account of the difficulty of foraging in such a barren country. He sent Morgan, the rifleman, with a part of his force towards Ninety-six. He, with the remainder, marched to the east side of the Pedee River opposite the Cheraw Hills.

Cornwallis lay at Winnsborough, about seventy miles from Greene, and General Leslie was pushing on with fifteen hundred reinforcements to join him. With these Cornwallis intended to make another attempt to subjugate North Carolina. The plan of the British commander was to leave Lord Rawdon, at Camden, with a large force to keep South Carolina in subjection, while he, with the remainder of his army, marched forward, got between Greene and Virginia, and compelled the latter to give battle. By getting between Greene

and Virginia he would prevent the latter from being reinforced. Cornwallis looked forward to the complete subjugation of North Carolina, and afterwards that of Virginia and Maryland.

Cornwallis did not wish to leave Morgan unmolested in the neighbourhood of Ninety-six, however, and he despatched Tarleton after Morgan with about eleven hundred picked troops, of whom a large proportion were Tarleton's famous cavalry.

Cornwallis moved on the 12th of December in such a manner that he could carry out his original intention, and at the same time be able to prevent Morgan from joining Greene.

Morgan, in the meantime, had been joined by North Carolina and Georgia militia, until his force was about equal to Tarleton's, though it was inferior in cavalry and in discipline. On the approach of Tarleton, Morgan made for the upper fords of the Broad River. On the evening of the 15th of January, 1781, Tarleton came upon a small detachment left behind by Morgan. He supposed that Morgan was in full force there on the Pacelot, and manœuvred to deceive the American. This wasted time, and in the early morning when he crossed the stream, he was dumfounded to discover that Morgan was well away on his retreat. Tarleton pressed forward impetuously. At ten that night he came upon a recently deserted camp of Morgan's, where the camp fires were still burn-

ing. Tarleton let his men have but a short rest, being anxious to come upon the American commander while in retreat. At two o'clock the next morning, therefore, he pressed on with his weary soldiers. Early on the morning of the 17th he captured two of Morgan's videttes and was surprised to find that, instead of being in headlong flight, Morgan had halted on the banks of the Broad River, given his army a good night's rest and was prepared to give battle to Tarleton. As a matter of fact Morgan had stopped for fear Tarleton would come upon him while crossing the river and take advantage of his confusion.

THE BATTLE OF THE COWPENS.

Morgan had halted at a grazing establishment known as Hannah's Cowpens. To-day it would be known as a ranch, and it seems a shame that a place where the Americans won a victory, in the Revolution, should be known by quite so undignified a name.

Morgan took position in an open wood with a slight eminence on either flank. His infantry were arranged in two lines. The first was North and South Carolina militia under Colonel Pickens. This line, with a corps of riflemen in front of it, was to wait until the enemy were within easy shot, then fire two volleys and retire.

The second line, drawn up in rear, was com-

posed of Colonel Howard's light infantry and the Virginia riflemen, all of them regulars. In rear of this line Colonel Washington held Morgan's small force of cavalry, about one hundred and thirty strong.

Tarleton advanced about eight o'clock in the morning. He anticipated an easy victory as the ground was favourable to the action of his cavalry. He formed his infantry into line with his dragoons on either flank. He left a part of each arm, however, as a reserve. But he was so impetuous that he did not even wait for this reserve to take its place before giving the order to advance. And there was one serious handicap that he entirely overlooked. His men were tired out with their rapid pursuit, while Morgan's command had had the benefit of a good night's sleep.

The corps of riflemen fired on the advancing British and then fell back on Pickens militiamen. The latter fired the two volleys as prearranged, and then fell back on the regulars. Against these the British infantry were hurled, while the cavalry charged their flanks. For a time they stood, but being outflanked were about to change front, when Morgan ordered them to fall back on Colonel Washington's cavalry.

The British rushed forward irregularly, supposing the Americans to be in full retreat. To their amazement they were immediately charged by Colonel Washington's cavalry, while the Continen-

tals, facing about, gave them a destructive volley and then charged back in turn.

The British fell at once into complete confusion. Fatigued and exhausted, as well as surprised, they were seized with panic and broke. A few endeavoured to defend their cannon, but they were cut down and the cannon captured, as well as the British colours. The flight now became general. Not even Tarleton himself could rally his famous dragoons, and they galloped off. Tarleton indeed and the few officers and men who remained true to him had to trust to the fleetness of their horses to escape capture.

The British loss was one hundred and ten killed, two hundred wounded and between five and six hundred prisoners. The Americans had but twelve killed and sixty wounded. Besides the cannon and colours, Morgan captured eight hundred muskets, thirty-five waggons, seventy negroes, one hundred dragoon horses and various other belongings of Tarleton's army.

Morgan sent Colonel Washington in pursuit of the flying Tarleton and then made for the Catawba. Cornwallis was but twenty-five miles away, and Morgan wanted to make sure of a junction with Greene. Cornwallis waited for his reinforcements and to gather up the stragglers from Tarleton's defeated command. Then he started for Morgan, but the delay had saved the latter. Morgan got his last man across the Catawba two

hours before the van of Cornwallis' army came in sight. That night a heavy rain came on and so swelled the Catawba that it became impassable. Cornwallis felt the loss of Tarleton's light troops keenly. He needed them for just such work as this pursuit of Morgan and his coming pursuit of Greene. He therefore spent two days destroying every particle of baggage belonging to his army that was not absolutely necessary. He himself set the example. His officers followed, and preparations were made for the most rapid marching. The English even destroyed all their wines and liquors with which they usually supplied themselves on campaign, and some of their food supplies were destroyed. They supposed Morgan to be so hindered by his prisoners that they could overtake him before he made his junction with Greene. But they were mistaken.

CHAPTER XXIV

GREENE TAKES COMMAND AND COMMENCES HIS FAMOUS RETREAT—THE CROSSING OF THE CATAWBA, THE YADKIN AND THE DAN RIVERS—CORNWALLIS ABANDONS PURSUIT—HE RETIRES TO HILLSBOROUGH AND IS FOLLOWED BY GREENE—BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURT HOUSE—THE VICTOR RETREATS—GREENE MOVES INTO SOUTH CAROLINA

MORGAN had sent his prisoners back by a circuitous route so that they might not retard his retreat. And Greene put himself in motion to join Morgan. Greene had received news of a British force that had been landed at Wilmington and that was supposed to be intended for coöperation with Cornwallis. He moved, therefore, not only to help Morgan but to prevent the junction of Cornwallis and this new army. The main body he left under command of General Huger, and with a guard of a few dragoons pushed on to personally conduct Morgan's retreat. He foresaw the eventual ruin of Cornwallis. And he adopted Washington's famous Fabian policy of constant retreat except when there was an exceptionally good opportunity to fight. He intended to draw

Cornwallis as far as he could from his base of supplies by retreating before him, and expected to be joined by reinforcements that would make him in the end superior in strength to the English general.

Greene ordered Morgan to retreat on the 31st of the month so that he might get a good lead on his pursuer. The Catawba was subsiding and might at any moment become again fordable. To dispute the passage of the river, Greene left about five hundred militia under General Davidson. And on the very night of the 31st Cornwallis moved out in pursuit. He was unsuccessful in finding an unguarded ford, though he marched a good part of the night in an attempt to do so. But he forced the passage, nevertheless, with some loss. The American loss was about forty, including General Davidson, who was last to retreat and was killed as he was mounting his horse. Tarleton pursued the fleeing militia and totally dispersed them with some further loss. Had he continued but a few miles further in his pursuit he would have captured General Greene himself. Greene, however, rode on alone through mud and rain and escaped. He had ordered Huger to join Morgan at Guilford Court House. Cornwallis was delayed by his artillery and baggage. He mounted some of his infantry on baggage horses, joined them to the cavalry and sent them on ahead. They arrived at the Yadkin just in time

to capture a few waggons and nothing more. The Yadkin was not fordable at the place, and the Americans had secured all the boats. The army of Cornwallis was obliged to move up the river to a fordable point, and Greene's two divisions united safely at the appointed place on the 9th of February.

Greene had now a force about equal to that of Cornwallis in numerical strength, but there the equality ended. Cornwallis' soldiers were all veterans ; most of Greene's were militia. And Cornwallis had much superior cavalry. Greene called a council of war, one of the few he called during all his career, and it was unanimously agreed not to offer battle, but to continue the retreat. This was the measure advocated by Greene himself. He wanted to retreat across the river Dan into Virginia. By doing this he would be continually nearing his reinforcements, and Cornwallis would be continually moving further and further from his base of supplies and away from any possible reinforcements. For Greene had learned that the force landed at Wilmington was a small one and not intended to coöperate with Cornwallis.

Cornwallis on his part expected to catch Greene and force him to fight before he could reach the river Dan, and he calculated that there were not enough boats on the river to cross Greene's army.

The most famous portion of this most famous retreat now began. Cornwallis moved for the

upper fords of the river, supposing there were no others. Greene set out for the fords at the junction of the Dan and Staunton rivers. In addition General Kosciuszko hurried on to collect all the boats for the use of Greene's army and to throw up works for the defence of the ferries. Greene commanded the main body of the army, which with the trains, formed the advance, and Colonel Williams commanded the rear-guard, as Morgan was ill. It was a terrible march and a brilliant one. Every stratagem that could be devised to delay the British and throw them off the scent was used with skill, as Tarleton himself testifies. The Americans were poorly clad and many of them barefoot, leaving the traces of their bare feet in splotches of blood on the frozen ground. But they were accustomed to hardships.

Cornwallis pressed on, confident that he at last had Greene in a trap. The British general did not know of the lower fords, and he was held far in rear by Williams and his active rear-guard. At last the army reached the Dan and crossed it in a day. That night Williams left his camp-fires burning in sight of the British and silently decamped. He also crossed in safety, just as, again, the van of the British army marched in sight of the river. Nothing could have been more surprising or disheartening to the British than this unexpected escape of the American army. They had toiled and struggled and suffered in vain.

Greene had the satisfaction, besides saving his army, of conducting one of the most masterly retreats known to military history.

The baffled Cornwallis now took post at Hillsborough. Greene had made preparations for further retreat, but perceiving that Cornwallis had given up the pursuit promptly took up the rôle of pursuer himself. The river had fallen, and he sent Lee and Pickens on a scout. They were anxious to meet Tarleton, who was on a similar mission for the enemy. They failed to trap him, but had the good fortune to come upon a force of four hundred royalists under Colonel Pyle, which had been raised to reinforce Cornwallis and was in quest of Tarleton to form a junction. In the engagement that followed Lee and Pickens killed and wounded nearly half the Tory detachment and captured nearly all the rest.

Greene crossed the Dan, and Cornwallis abandoned Hillsborough, crossed the Haw River and moved to the banks of the Alamance, one of the tributaries of the Haw. Here he was in a country more favourable to him in sentiment and full of supplies, of which he stood in great need. Greene threw out his light troops under Pickens and Williams to watch Cornwallis, and himself moved from camp to camp, avoiding a general battle in anticipation of the arrival of reinforcements.

On the 6th of March Cornwallis moved out and attempted to surprise Williams, but was unsuc-

cessful. That general promptly got out of the way, and Cornwallis did not pursue. He had struck with the main purpose of bringing Greene into action, and Greene had no intention of accommodating him at that time. Within a week, however, Greene was reinforced by Lawson's brigade of Virginia militia, Butler's and Eaton's brigades of North Carolina militia and four hundred regulars, all of whom had been making for his camp by forced marches. This gave Greene a total fighting strength of four thousand five hundred men, a much larger army than that of Cornwallis, though it was far inferior in training and experience.

Greene now determined to accept the battle which Cornwallis offered. He accordingly gave orders to concentrate on the 14th of March at Guilford, only eight miles from the British.

BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURT HOUSE.

Early on the morning of the 15th, Cornwallis set out for Guilford Court House. About four miles from the place the British advance under Tarleton came upon the American advance under Lee. At last there was to be a contest of strength between the two rival horsemen under equal conditions and with equal forces. It resulted in success for Lee, mainly because his horses were of much superior strength. Tarleton's men were

weakly mounted, and when the two bodies of horsemen came together the British were borne back with loss. Tarleton sounded the retreat, and Lee pursued him back to the main army, when he in turn retreated.

In the meantime Greene was deploying for battle on a wooded hill about a mile from the court house from which the battle takes its name. He drew up in three lines. The first was composed of the North Carolina militia and riflemen under Butler and Eaton. They were posted behind a fence with a cultivated field in front of them. Woods were on their flank and rear, and in fact all about. The second line was about three hundred yards in rear and was composed of Virginia militia under Generals Stevens and Lawson. This line crossed the road upon which Cornwallis was advancing. The third line was four hundred yards in rear of the second and was composed of Virginia and Maryland regulars under General Huger and Colonel Campbell. There were a few, a very few, field-pieces with the first line and at Greene's headquarters near the court house. The cavalry of Lee and Washington covered the flanks.

The British advanced in three columns. General Leslie with the Hessians and Highlanders were on the right ; the Royal Artillery and Guards were in the centre ; and Webster's brigade were on the left. When the British were within one hundred and fifty yards of the first line of Ameri-

cans, the North Carolina militia fell into confusion; many of them threw down their guns, and they retreated. A volley from the British regulars and their shouts completed the confusion, and the first line went back in a panic. General Stevens, in command of the Virginia militia, was prepared for this, however. His ranks opened to let the fugitives pass, and his men stood their ground. After some hard fighting the British charged this second line with the bayonet and drove it also. All fell back now to the third line, on which Greene counted for victory. He rode along it calling on the regulars to stand firm.

Webster charged the Maryland regulars and was driven back by them, with some aid from the Virginians and Delaware troops. Stewart was more successful in charging the other Maryland regiment, and his Guards and Grenadiers drove it back in confusion. Upon this the first turned from Webster and charged Stewart, and at the same time Colonel Washington's cavalry charged upon them. All this resulted in the fiercest kind of a fight. Stewart was killed. The field-pieces were taken and retaken, and finally the British gave way and were pursued with great slaughter, until their own artillery, firing grape-shot, halted the panting Americans.

Again the enemy advanced all along the line. There was more hard fighting, but the effect of the first flight of the Carolinians had been too

great. The Americans began to give way. Greene saw that the battle was lost and rather than risk the total destruction of his army ordered a retreat. This was made in good order with the loss of his artillery only. The British, in fact, were too badly used up to pursue him, and he escaped with ease. Tarleton started to pursue, but was called back. The British had suffered severely, and the whole British army had to get to work to hunt up and care for the wounded. These were scattered throughout the woods; many could not be found, and their cries through the night made one of the most horrible impressions on the survivors that were experienced during the war.

The American loss as reported was about thirteen hundred killed and wounded, though it was never exactly ascertained and was probably more. The British loss was about one hundred killed and five hundred wounded and missing. This loss of the British, however, was much more disastrous to his army than the greater loss of the Americans to them. The British army was smaller and the proportion of loss all the greater in consequence. Moreover, the British had lost many officers of importance, and they were tired out. As a matter of fact Cornwallis considered his victory almost as ruinous as a defeat. And Greene after all had only retreated ten miles from him. Cornwallis, therefore, had no thought of following up his doubtful advantage. He had had all the experi-

ence he wanted at following a retreating Greene. On the contrary, Cornwallis felt compelled to retreat himself to a point where he could be better supplied. He set out, therefore, for the Haw River, leaving his seriously wounded behind to fall into Greene's hands. Greene followed, and history has to record the strange sight of a defeated army pursuing a victorious one. Greene was brought to a halt at Deep River, as Cornwallis had broken down the bridges across it.

He was now compelled to part with his militia. Their time had expired. He had to stop for such a length of time to collect supplies and rebuild the bridge that Cornwallis was far on the way. He made a sudden change in his plans, therefore, and determined to march into South Carolina and prosecute the war there. This would compel Cornwallis to follow him or sacrifice his many posts in that state and Georgia. On the 5th of April, Greene set forth on the road to Camden, the post where Lord Rawdon had his headquarters.

When Cornwallis learned of this move of Greene's army it was too late to render any assistance to Rawdon. His force was now reduced to but fourteen hundred men. He decided therefore to move into Virginia and form a junction with a force acting there, with General Phillips in command and with Arnold second in command.

CHAPTER XXV

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA—GREENE MOVES UPON THE BRITISH—THE BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS—CORNWALLIS JOINS ARNOLD—LAFAYETTE FOLLOWS CORNWALLIS—WASHINGTON'S CHANGE OF PLANS—CORNWALLIS MOVES TO YORKTOWN—HE IS BOTTLED UP THERE

LAFAYETTE had been sent to the relief of Greene. Steuben had been watching Arnold before Phillips came into command of the British in Virginia. When Cornwallis turned north therefore, Lafayette and his army were turned to oppose him, together with the Baron Steuben's small force on the York River. Steuben had been defending the state as well as he could against the marauds of the traitor, Arnold, and later of his superior, Phillips.

Greene moved to the hills on the Santee and remained encamped during the hot months of July and August. But Marion, Lee, Sumter and Washington (the colonel) overran the state and harassed the British. Greene had made a move against Rawdon, but had been repulsed at the minor engagement of Hobkirk's Hill. Rawdon

had in the meantime turned over his command to Stuart and proceeded to the North by sea.

On the 22d of August, Greene moved from the healthy cool hills on the Santee against Stuart. The latter lay about sixteen miles away from him ; but as Greene moved Stuart changed his position to Eutaw Springs, where he was reinforced from Charleston. The two armies met on the 8th of September.

THE BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS.

Greene had about two thousand men, the British about three hundred more ; but Greene was superior in cavalry. Greene advanced at four o'clock in the morning in two columns, which later were to be deployed into two lines of battle, that being one of the old-fashioned methods of deployment. General Marion commanded the first column, which was composed of North and South Carolina militia. The second column was composed of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland regulars. Lee's cavalry covered the right flank, Henderson's the left. Colonel Washington's dragoons and the Delaware regulars formed the reserve.

Greene deployed into line of battle upon reaching the first British outpost, which was soon put to flight. The two lines now advanced, the road being in their centre and on it the field-pieces.

They were still far from the British lines, however, and had difficulty in keeping their formations as they moved through the woods. Stuart had thrown forward a body of infantry to oppose their advance while he made arrangements for battle. His extreme right rested on Eutaw Creek and was concealed by dense thickets on the banks of the stream. The left was on the Charleston road. About fifty yards in rear of his main line there was a brick house surrounded by a palisaded garden which Stuart intended to use as a shelter. And the strength of this miserable brick house saved him from utter defeat and ruin.

The Americans drove in the British advance line and pressed on. The militia fought with the ardour of regulars, and the battle soon raged fiercely all along the line. Two of the field-pieces of the Americans were dismounted and one of the British. Finally the militia gave way and retired, covered by the flanking cavalry. The Continentals led by Sumner took their place in fine style, and the British also brought their reserves into action. Sumner's brigade contained a number of recruits, however, and Greene saw signs of approaching demoralisation. He therefore ordered the Marylanders under Williams to sweep the field at the point of the bayonet. They did so with great gallantry. The British gave way. Lee and his cavalry then turned their flank and also charged them in rear. The British were thrown into a

panic; Colonel Washington also charged them and turned the panic into a rout. A great number of prisoners were taken.

But the extreme British right in the dense thickets were still in position and could enfilade the American left. Greene ordered Washington with his cavalry and Kirkwood with his infantry to dislodge them. Unfortunately Colonel Washington, in his ardour, did not wait for the infantry. He dashed forward with his dragoons. The thicket could not be penetrated by cavalry, and his force was roughly handled. His horses were shot down, his men killed or wounded at the pleasure of the British. He himself, too, was wounded and would have been ruthlessly slain but for the intervention of a British officer. The infantry, however, succeeded in driving the British from the thickets, whence they took refuge in the palisaded garden of the brick house. Had the Americans now pressed home, the victory would have been secure. But the troops broke to plunder the British camp. Many became intoxicated on the liquors found there and refused to obey their officers. Soon all was riot and disorder. In the meantime the enemy rallied. Fire was opened on the Americans from every window of the brick house and from the surrounding woods. Colonel Stuart had succeeded in rallying his men and in inducing them to advance again to the attack. And Greene, in this emergency, found that his

ammunition was nearly exhausted. He therefore withdrew, leaving a strong picket on the field of battle. He could not find water nearer than his previous camp, seven miles away, however. In the night the enemy retreated, not stopping until they reached Monk's Corner, twenty-five miles from Charleston.

This was the last affair of importance in the South. We must now return to the army of Cornwallis and see how he fared.

General Phillips, who had reinforced Arnold at Portsmouth, Va., on the 26th of March, had command of a force of about thirty-five hundred men. This was so great that Baron Steuben, who had been opposing Arnold, had to hurriedly withdraw into the interior.

On the 16th of April Phillips advanced up the James River and attacked City Point and Petersburg. Throughout the surrounding country he and Arnold burned and destroyed everything that was worth attention. Richmond would have fallen into their hands but for the timely arrival of Lafayette, whose small army of two thousand men had been diverted from the relief of Greene, now that the latter had moved into South Carolina.

Cornwallis notified Phillips that he would join him at Petersburg, and Phillips held that place, awaiting the arrival of his comrade. While waiting, however, Phillips fell ill and a few days later

died. Arnold then commanded until Cornwallis arrived on the 20th of May. Cornwallis tried to draw Lafayette into battle, but the young Frenchman warily drew away to the north to make a junction with Wayne. Cornwallis tried to prevent the junction but failed. He then occupied himself with destroying stores and raiding the private estates of the Virginia gentlemen. Tarleton soon mounted his command on race-horses belonging to the latter and scoured and ravaged the country to his heart's content.

Lafayette, having formed a junction not only with Wayne but also with the Baron Steuben, took the aggressive, and Cornwallis found himself less anxious for an engagement. In the meantime Washington threatened an attack on New York, and Clinton sent to Cornwallis for reinforcements. This compelled Cornwallis to retreat to Portsmouth, Lafayette following. On the retreat Cornwallis turned on Wayne, who led the American advance, and on the 6th of July he gave Mad Anthony a very severe handling. But Wayne fought so stubbornly that Cornwallis concluded he was followed by a force much stronger than he was and failed to follow up an advantage that might have been disastrous to the American cause.

Toward the end of July, Washington still threatening New York, learned that a French fleet under the Count de Grasse would soon be in the

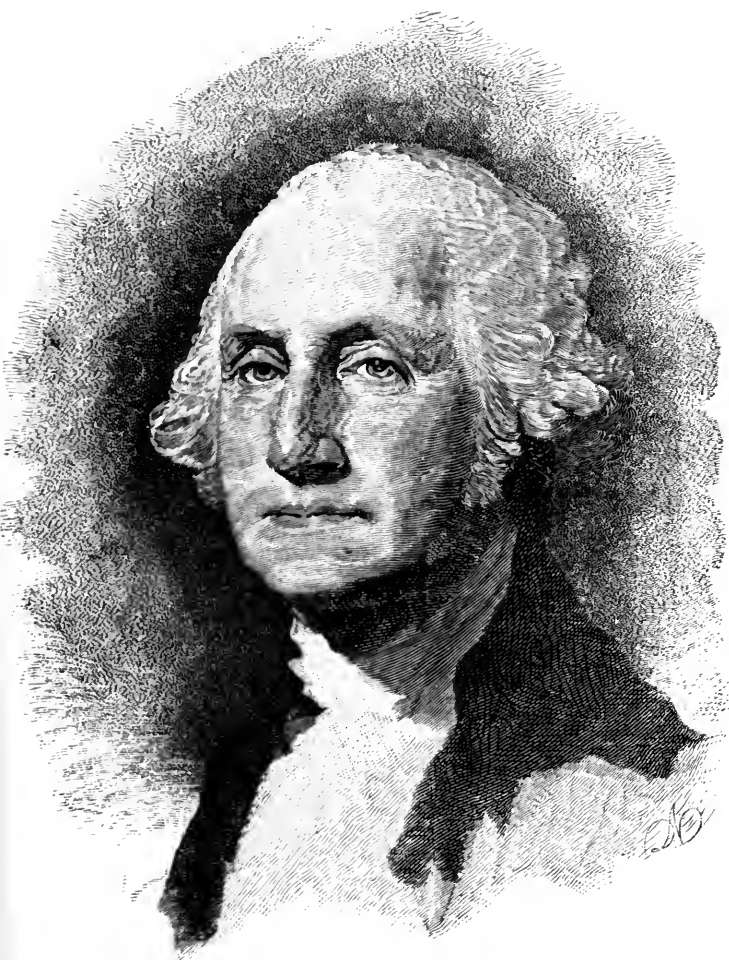
Chesapeake. Lafayette also wrote that should a fleet come there he felt sure that the army of Cornwallis could be captured. This changed Washington's plan of campaign. He determined to take advantage of the British idea that he was to attack them in New York, make a quick march through the back country and join Lafayette. Then, with the French fleet, to prevent the escape of Cornwallis by sea, to hem him in by land and capture him.

Perfect secrecy was maintained concerning the plan; preparations were made as though New York were the objective. In fact it was not until the 21st of August, when he was well on his way, that Washington even wrote to Lafayette, in confidence, that he intended to join him. The French under De Rochambeau also joined in the rapid march toward the unsuspecting Cornwallis, and the Count de Barras decided to join De Grasse when he arrived with the French squadron under his command. The whole operation was a masterly military movement. It completely deceived Clinton, and when that general realised what had taken place under his very nose it was too late to aid the imperilled Cornwallis. He did the best he could under the circumstances, by sending Arnold into Connecticut to ravage his native state. And if anything could have added to the odium of the name of Arnold it was this expedition. But it did not turn Washington aside for one moment

from the campaign he had planned. On the 30th of August, Washington reached Philadelphia. For once in the career of the Father of his Country his plans were aided by events. On the 25th of August, Colonel John Laurens arrived at Boston from France with two and a half million livres in sadly needed cash, part of six million livres obtained from the French king.

Cornwallis, in the meantime, had moved to Yorktown, where he set about establishing a permanent post in obedience to orders. Clinton intended the place as a base from which he proposed to operate later in the year. And Cornwallis felt so secure and suspected so little of the real design of the Americans, that he offered to detach a thousand men, or even more, to help defend New York from the threatened attack by the American and French armies.

Lafayette, in obedience to instructions from Washington, succeeded in raising the militia of the neighbourhood and forming a force sufficient to prevent Cornwallis from retreating from Yorktown on the appearance of the French fleet. And he made ready to coöperate with the troops that were to be landed from the French fleet. In this way Cornwallis was quietly bottled up. And he did not suspect his danger until the French fleet arrived within the Capes of Delaware on the 28th of August. He looked about for an avenue of escape. But the York and the James rivers were



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filled with the armed vessels of the French. And at Williamsburg Lafayette was so strongly posted that Cornwallis did not dare attack him. In this predicament Cornwallis set about strengthening his fortifications and erecting new ones, at the same time sending expresses to Clinton notifying the latter of his extremity.

The only effort made to help Cornwallis was by Admiral Graves, with a British fleet of twenty ships. The Count de Grasse put out to meet him with an equal force. The sea-fight that ensued was of equal success to both. Each claimed a victory, and neither was anxious to renew the engagement. For four days they remained watching each other. Then the arrival of De Barras with the other French fleet made the contest so unequal that the Englishman bore away for New York.

CHAPTER XXVI

THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN—STORMING OF THE REDOUBTS—SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS— END OF THE REVOLUTION

ON the 25th of September the allied armies and the fleets were at last concentrated around Yorktown. Thirteen redoubts and batteries connected by intrenchments were circled around the land side of the town, and there were batteries along the front on the York River. On either side of the town there were deep creeks emptying into the York, and on each of them, at a point about half a mile from each other, the enemy had erected extensive outworks, redoubts faced by abatis, field works and obstacles. On the other side of the river Gloucester Point was fortified and it, with some English ships, defended the passage of the stream. Gloucester Point was defended by Lieutenant-Colonel Dundas with about seven hundred men. Just as the allies appeared before the town Cornwallis heard from Clinton that Admiral Digby with a fleet and reinforcements would sail to reinforce him on the 5th of October. Signals were arranged between the two generals, by which the English fleet would know whether Cornwallis still

held out and whether he still held Gloucester Point. Before the works the allies took post, the Americans on the right and the French on the left. Cornwallis abandoned his outer defences and withdrew into the town. The allies immediately seized the abandoned works and used them as a cover while they threw up intrenchments in front of the town. By the 28th of September the allies were within two miles of the town proper, and General de Choisy, with Lauzun's French legion and Weedon's brigade, was pushed across the York River to attack Gloucester Point. By the 1st of October the allied armies had constructed a complete circle of intrenchments around Yorktown on the land side, each end resting on the river.

On the 2d Tarleton and his legion made a movement from Gloucester to forage the country in the immediate neighbourhood, the besieging army being in serious straits for forage. He succeeded, but only after being roughly handled by Lauzun with his French hussars and lancers. About a dozen officers and men were lost on either side, and Tarleton was nearly captured. It was his last effort on American soil. On the following day General Choisy received a reinforcement of marines from the French fleet and cut off all communication from Gloucester.

On the night of the 6th of October, 1781, the first parallel was opened before Yorktown. It was within six hundred yards of the English in-

trenchments and redoubts. General Lincoln had the honour of opening the parallel. He had once been besieged himself. And Governor Nelson pointed out his own handsome residence as the most effective part of the town to be shelled. It was being used by Cornwallis for a headquarters building. He was promptly driven out. A terrific cannonade was now exchanged day and night between the opposing forces.

On the 11th the second parallel was opened by the Baron Steuben with his division. The workmen, however, were very much annoyed by the fire from two British redoubts, one on either flank, about three hundred yards in front of the main works of the besieged. It was resolved to storm them on the night of the 14th. One was carried by Lafayette with a detachment of Americans, and the other by the Baron de Viomel with a French detachment. At the head of the latter was the regiment of Gatinais, of which De Rochambeau had been colonel. Hamilton, no longer a member of Washington's staff on account of a lack of respect shown to the commander-in-chief on a previous occasion, had the honour of leading Lafayette's column. Both redoubts were taken at the point of the bayonet. The French had far the stronger redoubt to take and suffered more severely than the Americans. The redoubts were immediately included in the second parallel.

Cornwallis was now in despair. On the 16th

he made a furious attack on two of the most advanced batteries, and took and held them long enough to spike the guns. But the work was done too hastily, and the spikes were easily removed.

The English commander now determined to try to escape. His plan was to cross the river to Gloucester, surprise Choisy, break through and force his way through Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, and join Clinton in New York. It was a mad scheme, but he was in desperate circumstances. The only other alternative seemed to be surrender. His works had almost been battered to pieces, and he had hardly a gun left to bear on the allied front. He managed to get one division of his army across. But he experienced so many delays that he was unable to cross the other and had to recross the first division under the fire of the batteries.

His hopes were now at an end. He was too humane to expose his garrison to an assault which must be successful and bloody. He therefore ordered a parley beaten on the morning of the 17th. He asked for terms. After an exchange of letters they were at length given by Washington and accepted by Cornwallis. On the 19th the garrison surrendered.

General Lincoln was appointed to receive the surrender of the British commander, for the same reason that he was appointed to open the first parallel. But Cornwallis pleaded an indisposition

and was represented by General O'Hara. The British army passed through the lines of the American and French armies, drawn up on either side of the road to receive them, and were conducted to a field by General Lincoln, where they deposited their arms. Afterwards they were conducted back to Yorktown, where they were to be held as prisoners of war; although the officers were to be paroled and permitted to go either to any port of Europe or to any place in America held by British troops.

On the very day that Cornwallis surrendered the tardy fleet that was to come to his aid from New York sailed from that city. It consisted of thirty-five ships and carried reinforcements of seven thousand of Clinton's best troops. But it did not arrive until the 24th of the month. It learned of the surrender and returned in mortification to New York.

Throughout America the news was received with transports of joy. Congress voted its thanks to the commanders and officers of the allied armies, and made presents of colours and trophies to Washington, De Rochambeau and De Grasse. It ordered the erection of a marble column commemorative of the alliance of America and France, and appointed a day for general thanksgiving and prayer.

Exactly opposite was the feeling of the British both in New York and in England. Lord North,

the British prime minister, when notified of the news, exclaimed, "It is all over." And, practically, so it was. It was not until the 25th of November, 1783, however, that the British evacuated New York. On the same day it was entered by the American troops marching down from Harlem to the Bowery as the British moved out.

It was a vastly different army that entered from that which left, you may be sure. The Americans were as ragged and forlorn-looking as the British were well clad and smart. But the Americans were victors and the British vanquished. And the happy inhabitants of New York were just as proud of their unkempt victors as the latter could have desired. Banquets were given, and the city was for some time in a holiday state, with fireworks, processions and general rejoicing.

Savannah was evacuated July 11th and Charleston, December 14th, 1782.

On the 4th of December Washington took leave of the officers who had struggled so long and so nobly. He then proceeded to Annapolis, hailed everywhere by the people as the saviour of his country. Congress had been removed to Annapolis, and there, on the 23d of December, Washington resigned his commission to that body. He reached his home at Mt. Vernon on Christmas Eve, hardly appreciating the extent of the fame he had won.

His leave-taking of his officers and the resigna-

tion of his commission were two of the most affecting scenes in the history of our country.

The officers and soldiers of the army itself gradually dispersed to their homes and returned to occupations they had left so many years before. But few of them were paid in money for their hardships, exertions and dangers. But their name and fame will be for ever glorified by the most wonderful nation civilisation has ever produced. To-day it stretches across a hemisphere and contains eighty million souls and perhaps more. In another century—but the grandchildren of the boys and girls who read this book will know more about that than the author.

CHAPTER XXVII

THE NAVAL HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION

THE Heroes of Our Revolution were not all confined to the army. We had a navy that was small, indeed, but which has left us a record that is as brilliant as it is brief.

As early as 1776 the Americans had twenty-six vessels, great and small. And during the first two years of the war they captured over eight hundred English merchantmen, for they were mostly privateers fitted out to prey on the enemy's commerce. They did it so well that they all but drove the English flag from the seas.

Ezekiel Hopkins was the first commander-in-chief of our naval forces, but he got into trouble on his first cruise and was dismissed from the service. The command of the navy then devolved on Captain Nicholson. He was an able officer, but in some ways unfortunate. He had command of the *Virginia* of twenty-eight guns, but was blockaded, and he and his crew joined Washington's army and fought with it at Trenton. He was afterwards put in command of the *Trumbull*, with which he fought the *Watt*, a vessel of superior size and strength. For two hours and a half he

lay abeam of her within musket-shot and poured in broadside upon broadside. His spars were shot away though, and he was unable to capture the *Watt*. He himself and his boat were captured in 1781 after he had fought bravely against the most desperate odds.

Captain Barry commanded the *Raleigh* of thirty-two guns. In this boat he was attacked by a whole fleet of British vessels. He tried to escape but failed. Then he closed with the first of the enemy's boats and tried to board her. In this he was unsuccessful also. Then he ran his ship ashore and fled with his crew to a barren and rocky island, making good his escape. In 1781 he commanded the *Alliance*, and with it he attacked two English vessels. He was wounded and carried below. While his wound was being dressed one of his officers asked him if they should surrender. "No," he answered in great anger. "If this ship cannot be fought without me I will be carried on deck." And carried on deck he was. This so inspired his men that they turned to and captured both the English vessels. The next year in the *Luzerne* he made a wonderful escape from a whole British squadron with that vessel and a consort.

Joshua Barney was another brave and successful naval commander, whose chief achievement was capturing the *Monk*, a vessel much larger than the *Hyder Ally*, which he commanded.

Then there were Robinson, Williams, Wickes, Alexander, Manly, Biddle, Harding, Truxton, Murray, Young, Hazelwood, and Dale. They were all celebrated for the terror they spread among British merchantmen, and for their wonderful seamanship which enabled them to overhaul and capture England's merchant ships and keep away from her powerful navy.

But the most celebrated naval commander of the war, and one of the most celebrated sailors in the history of the world was Paul Jones. He is the bright particular star of the American Navy during the Revolution.

His real name was John Paul, and he was born on July 6th, 1747, in Kirkbean, Leith, Scotland. He was the son of a poor gardener on the estate of Arbigland. He added the name Jones to his own, probably because he was fighting against his own countrymen. He made his assumed name so well known, both at the time and in history, that the name of John Paul would be unknown to-day were not Jones added to it.

Captain Wickes, of the cruiser *Reprisal*, distinguished himself in the West Indies early in the war and late in 1776 sailed for France. He made many prizes in the Bay of Biscay, and in the summer of 1777 started on a cruise around Ireland, attended by the *Lexington* and the *Dolphin*. The three swept the Irish and English seas of their merchantmen. On their return to America, how-

ever, the *Lexington* was captured, and the *Reprisal* was lost on the coast of Newfoundland, with Wickes and all of his crew.

It was John Paul Jones who carried the war actually into Great Britain itself. He followed in the track of the brave but unfortunate Wickes. In the spring of 1778 he sailed in the *Ranger* from France to the English coast. He entered the harbour of Whitehaven, took the fortifications and fired the shipping. In the spring of 1779 he sailed with a squadron of seven vessels from a French port, and cruised along the Scotch coast with great success. From there he proceeded to the east coast of England, where he encountered a fleet of merchantmen under convoy of two British war vessels. Jones, in the *Bonhomme Richard*, engaged the larger of the British vessels, the *Serapis*. The other, the *Countess of Scarborough*, was engaged by Captain Cottineau, in the *Pallas*. The action that followed was terrible. Jones was fired upon by another of his own ships, either through the treachery or incompetency of its captain. But the *Serapis* surrendered, as did the *Countess of Scarborough*. Sixteen hours after the surrender the *Bonhomme Richard* went down.

Untold damage was done to British shipping all over the world by American privateers. From the very nature of things America could maintain no real navy. But these fast-sailing privateers became terrors of the seas. They could

seldom be caught by the British naval vessels, and they made the new flag of the United States known wherever boats were sailed. Indeed, it was on account of the navy that the flag was first adopted.

From this small beginning one of the greatest navies of the world has been evolved. At the end of our civil war no navy on earth compared with it. And in a few years from this writing it is again to be at least the equal of almost any. Long may it carry to victory the red and white stripes and the ever growing blue field of stars.

THE END.



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